

Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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Eccliaistical Affairs.

TAKING TIME BY THE FORELOCK.

SINCE the election of the first Reformed Parliament in 1832, no appeal to the constituencies has been made under more critical conditions than that which will have to be responded to in November next. Definite and momentous as is the issue then to be determined, there is more than usual uncertainty as to the relative strength of the forces which will actually engage in the conflict. First of all, the Legislature has newly conferred upon a very large number of persons, in counties as well as in boroughs, the elective franchise, the right to which they had not previously possessed. Then, it remains to be ascertained how many of these persons will make good their claims before the Revising Barrister, and so become entitled to vote at the ensuing election. Lastly, it is as yet a matter of conjecture only, more or less probable, what will be the prevailing political tendency which the new element will introduce into the various electoral bodies. At present, no precise data for calculation can be said to exist. The old landmarks of party have been removed. New lines of demarcation have yet to be drawn. All sorts of combinations, not hitherto dreamt of, may turn out to be possible; and, unexpectedly, may be resorted to. No one can yet tell the uses or misuses to which the "residuum" will, in the first instance, be applied. The battle, too, will be fought, immediately after the muster-roll has been completed. There will be no time then to discipline the hosts—none to instruct them—none to inspire them with an *esprit de corps*. Under these circumstances, it more especially behoves the Liberal staff in every place—the captains of hundreds, and the captains of thousands, according to the political influence they exert—to "take time by the forelock," and to see to it that every preparation that can be made now be made at once, so that, when the actual struggle comes, the work to be done may not be so overwhelming as to paralyse well-directed effort.

We Liberals are very apt to overrate, we will not say the intelligence, but the political information, of what we call "the masses"; in other words, of those resident in boroughs, who occupy tenements at a rental below about 6*l.* per annum. Our principles are so obviously true, and just, and fair, in our own judgment,

that we easily take for granted the certainty of their seeming true, and just, and fair, to the great bulk of our countrymen; to all, indeed, whose views are not perverted by clashing interests. Is it safe to proceed on this assumption? We doubt it. The operative classes have made themselves tolerably acquainted with the bearings of most of the questions, the solution of which will be decided at the forthcoming election; but there are hosts of petty shopkeepers, unskilled labourers, and others, whom Mr. Disraeli has invested with the franchise, who, politically speaking, know not their right hand from their left. We do not think they are more open to corruption, although the corruption to which they are exposed is of the grosser kind. But we do fear that they are less fortified than others by any development of intelligence and conscience to resist temptation. They ought to be taught during the next four months all that it is possible to teach them within so brief an interval. Let no one pretend that it would be useless to attempt the work: it would not be useless. It would put a large percentage of them on a level high enough to enable them to see things as we see them. For the immediate occasion even this would be no slight gain; but the effect of it in awakening some sense of political life where it did not before exist would be still more valuable, because, with a little cultivation, it would be durable and progressive.

Well, then, the first thing we have to do is to teach whatever it is indispensable to a right decision that electors should know. On this head there should be no delay, no restriction, no niggardliness, of effort. We cannot set about the work too soon—we cannot plan it too boldly—we cannot throw into it too much enthusiasm. Somehow or other everyone entitled to vote for a member of Parliament at the coming General Election should be made to understand what it is that he is to vote about. The subordinate issues may be left to another time—on the main issue every elector ought to be fairly instructed. Unless we do our utmost to secure this, we do comparatively nothing. "Agitate, agitate, agitate!" is a political war-cry which may now be superseded for awhile by "Enlighten, enlighten, enlighten!" We must ferret out objections, and meet prejudices, and untwist sophistries, and expose delusions, and refute lies, and turn hypocrisies inside out. We must state our own case intelligibly, nay, unmistakably; we must let as much light upon it as possible, and we must urge it by every legitimate argument upon the moral sense, as well as the patriotism, of every householder. There should be afloat within a week or two a literature resembling in some respects the later literature of the Anti-Corn-Law League. No expense, no personal activity, no self-sacrifice, should be spared to make it all-pervasive. The utmost pressure should be applied to force it into every cranny of the electoral body. By means of the newspaper press—especially the local papers—by well-prepared, pithy, pungent tracts—by placards and handbills—by *visd voce* discussion, by "penny readings" where the "penny" only is fictitious—by household canvassing and conversational discourse—"by hook or by crook," "in season and out of season," using whatever agency is most applicable; but using it without stint and without cessation—political light should be diffused, as a primary

duty by Liberals, over the entire surface of the enfranchised community.

We look upon this obligation as so weighty, and upon an immediate and thorough discharge of it as so vitally important, that we must ask our readers to forgive us if we urge it with an importunity that may seem wearisome to them. This Irish Church question, as a broad question of justice to the people of Ireland, is, of all others, perhaps the easiest one to put into a shape fitted to elicit a right response from unsophisticated minds. It is a case in which a simple, unpretentious, and strictly authentic statement of facts is the most impressive that can be adopted, and makes the most irresistible appeal to the sentiment of justice which the uneducated can appreciate as well as the educated. The Liberal party never had a political object so capable, when once clearly explained, of commending itself to right feeling, or so likely to command a right decision. We may add that they never had the good fortune of being agreed upon political measures for the realisation of any object, more considerate, more thorough, or more statesmanlike, than those initiated by Mr. Gladstone. It will be a blunder and a crime in them to fail for want of timely exertion to make the merits of the question universally understood. That they have done a vast deal we admit; that they have done all that needs to be done we wish we could, but we cannot, allow. Time is short, and the opportunity is rapidly passing away. In reference to this particular feature of our political enterprise, nothing is to be got, much is to be lost, everything may be placed in peril, by waiting. The precept comes home to us—"Work, while it is called, to-day."

Let us all be astir, then, each in his own sphere! Let each of us look round and consider what he may do to reproduce in it his own political convictions! In every locality, let the active and earnest-hearted friends of whatever is politically true, honest, lovely, and of good report, consult one another, and adopt the most feasible means to enlighten their neighbours on the question at issue! Division and subdivision of labour will make the work far more easy than it seems at first blush. Doubtless, moreover, general measures will be taken by public organisations to assist in the distribution of appropriate knowledge. But, above all, let no time be lost. Take it by the forelock. Begin at once, if a beginning has yet to be made. Teach, teach, teach! With due reverence we make the quotation, and with it we shall close, "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thy hand, for thou knowest not which shall prosper, this or that."

ECCLIASTICAL NOTES.

THE Compulsory Church-rates Abolition Bill, as amended by the Lords' Committee, is now before us. Before it was printed, which was only yesterday afternoon, we had been informed that the members of Committee had shown a scrupulous sense of honour in their discussions upon it. They were most anxious not to transgress the understanding upon which they were appointed, namely, that the principle of the measure should not be interfered with. It is with great pleasure that we bear our testimony to this characteristic of the labours of the Committee. We have read the amended Bill carefully, and are compelled to say that it does not transgress

the principle of the total abolition of compulsory rates. At the same time the measure, as it came from the Commons, has been wholly recast. In some, if not in most respects, it has been improved by the process. Its wording is clearer, and the powers, both taken from and given to the Church, are better defined. Some of its clauses, however, will need prolonged consideration. We do not quite see what will be their practical effect, but our impression at first sight is that they may be accepted. The measure now consists of ten short and succinctly drawn clauses. In the first the compulsory rate is abolished without any saving or equivocation. It is then provided that in the case of general or local acts, where any rate may be made and levied which is applicable partly to ecclesiastical and partly to other purposes, the rate shall in future be levied and applied only for the last-named purposes. Then there is the following provision, which looks like an after insertion—

Where, in pursuance of any Act of Parliament, a mixed fund, arising partly from rates affected by this Act, and partly from other sources, is directed to be applied to purposes, some of which are ecclesiastical purposes, the portion of such fund which is derived from such other sources, shall be henceforth primarily applicable to such of the said purposes as are ecclesiastical.

This is not very clear, but the purpose is, we think, honest. It simply raises a question of priority of moral claim.

Money held on security of rates is, of course, protected, and so are rates already made. Rates levied in lieu of tithes are also protected, and as they do not fall nor were ever intended to be included within the object of this Bill, this protective clause must be held to be unobjectionable. Vestries are left just as they now stand, "save in so far as relates to the recovery" of the Church-rate. Bodies corporate are allowed to pay the rate; persons refusing to pay are disqualified from inquiring into, objecting to, or voting in respect of, the expenditure of moneys arising from the rate; owners may pay instead of occupier, but no power is given to charge the occupier. Trustees, consisting of the incumbent and two householders, a reappointed to receive Church moneys, and such trustees are to be a body corporate with perpetual succession, and may pay over to the churchwardens any funds that may be in their hands. This is the substance of the amended Bill, and, on the whole, we think our readers will agree with us that it is an improvement upon the Bill of the Commons. It is simpler, will be more easily understood, and will, we think, be more workable. It is amusing to see how the words "Voluntary rate" are avoided, but, after all, if we get the thing, why may we not give up the name? Many members of the Episcopal Bench were upon this Committee, all of whom were and are personally opposed to the abolition of compulsory rates. We cannot help expressing our respect for the manner in which they have carried out the intentions of the promoters of this Bill. There is now no reason why Church-rates should not be abolished in the course of, at most, a week or two from the present time.

The Irish Burials Bill has not fared so well as this; and when it was discussed in Committee last week, a clause was carried by Mr. Cole, which, as Mr. Mowatt of Dublin notices, would make the law worse than ever for all Dissenters. In fact, if Mr. Cole's amendment should be successfully persisted in, the Bill will be valueless, and had better be abandoned. He has inserted a clause to the effect that no one not belonging to the United Church of England and Ireland can be buried in any churchyard "where heretofore no such burial has taken place." It is true that, as far as Ireland is concerned, the "United" Church may soon cease to exist; but it is desirable, even in that event, to secure the rights of burial in ground that belongs not to a sect, but to the whole parish. This Bill is up again to-day, when means will be taken to regain the ground that has been lost. If that cannot be done, Mr. Monsell, we imagine, will let the measure drop.

The Irish Presbyterians have taken a step which has, in the present times, great significance. When, last week, the composite deputation of Presbyterians, Wesleyans, Episcopalians, &c., waited upon the Premier, the Rev. Henry Henderson, a Presbyterian, was reported to have said that the great majority of the ministers of the Presbyterian Church had stood forth in defence of the Establishment. Mr. Macnaughten has promptly questioned Mr. Henderson upon this subject, and has succeeded in eliciting from him a letter repudiating the expressions attributed to him. The General Assembly then passed the following resolution:—

The General Assembly, having had their attention called by notice of motion to a statement reported to

have been made by the Rev. Henry Henderson when attending before the Right Hon. Benjamin Disraeli on Monday last, as a member of a deputation from Protestant Defence Associations throughout Ireland, resolve as follows:—The Assembly rejoice to find that Mr. Henderson denies the accuracy of the report, and that he states he did not say "the majority of ministers," nor anything to warrant that statement.

As it was with some difficulty that a majority of this assembly could be secured in favour of the *Regium Donum*, it was hardly likely that a majority would sustain the present Established Church.

The *Guardian* contains the following remarkable letter from the Bishop of Ontario:—

Sir,—The general opinion held by calm lookers-on is, that the Irish Church is doomed as an Establishment. The precedent will certainly be disastrous to all Establishments, but I see no reason to infer that the Church will either perish or become impaired in usefulness. As a bishop of a Church which has gone through the ordeal of disestablishment, I am inclined to believe that the Irish Church may flourish when separated from the State.

The resolutions of Mr. Gladstone will leave the Church in possession of all property, I suppose, that has been acquired by private benefaction, and of the glebe-houses and church edifices, and also will leave the clergy in possession of their incomes for life. Now, a precedent has been established in the disendowment of the Canadian Church which may be usefully followed in Ireland. Instead of the clergy retaining their rent-charges, &c., for the term of their natural life, let the State at once take possession of these revenues, and pay to the Church a capital sum in commutation of the clergy life interest.

The income of bishops and clergy is, say 500,000*l.*, which may be commuted, perhaps, for thirteen years' purchase, or, at all events, for ten years' purchase. Thus the Church will at once acquire five million pounds' sterling of endowment. The interest of this sum will not suffice to pay the present incumbent their full stipends; but now is the time to show a spirit of self-sacrifice, and if the Irish clergy will follow the example of the Canadian clergy, all of whom, except one man, commuted their life annuities and threw their money into a common fund, they will earn the admiration of the world. Any deficiency in their stipends may surely be made up by the voluntary contributions of the landowners of Ireland, five-sixths of whom are Protestants, and would be supplemented by donations from the English branch of the Church.

To sum up. The result would be that the Irish Church will find itself in possession of five million of pounds, all its churches and glebe-houses, diocesan and provincial synods, and *liberty*. The further result will be increased life and missionary zeal, in consequence of the necessity of falling back on the powers of the Church as a spiritual organisation, while the only apparent difference that the world will see between the Established and disestablished Church will be that four bishops will be excluded yearly from the House of Lords. I believe that not even will the dignity or social status of bishops and clergy be in the least degree diminished, while many advantages, which I need not mention, will accrue. Of course, I do not mean to defend the disestablishment of the Irish Church, but merely to express my own "*Nihil desperandum*."

C. S. ONTARIO.

Kingston, Canada, May 20, 1868.

This suggestion means that the individual clergy shall give up their own personal titles to their property and share in the common fund. They may do this, of course, but the Legislature can provide only for the protection of individual interests.

A bishop is contemplating, without dismay, the separation of the Church from the State in England! The Bishop of Worcester, in his charge delivered at his cathedral church, last week, said that—

In view of the possible separation of Church and State in England, though strongly deprecating such a step, he does not feel much concern about the temporalities of the Church, but he is anxious about the position of the clergy. The minister of the Church in every parish, he observed—if, indeed, a minister was to continue to officiate in every parish—would no longer have "a right of road to every house." He could no longer speak with the authority now given to him as the minister of all the people; he could only offer his ministrations to those who chose to recognise his office. The clergy, moreover, could no longer appeal to the laws of the land for support in their ministrations and for the protection of their just rights. They would have to submit themselves to other tribunals than the Queen's courts; they must be judged by other laws than such as had been made after free discussion by men of many minds in the great council of the nation.

There is here a slight misunderstanding of the case, not only as it is, but as it will be. Really the clergy will not be outlawed as the Dissenters once were.

We chronicle, with regret, the death of two gentlemen who, in their separate spheres, have been faithful men. Mr. Rigg, the editor of the *Watchman* newspaper, died after a very short illness, a few days ago. Mr. Rigg had edited that journal for twenty years, and we bear our testimony to the great ability shown in its conduct. In his own sphere, the late editor commanded very great and deserved respect. He did not see as we see in all things, but he was faithful to his own principles and faithful to his duty. Another death is that of Mr. Effingham Wilson, who, forty years ago, did eminent service, as a bold and enterprising publisher, to the cause of religious liberty. He has died, after a life of great usefulness, in a green old age.

THE BROAD CHURCH THEORY OF A STATE CHURCH.

TO ARTHUR PENRYN STANLEY, D.D., DEAN OF WESTMINSTER.

LETTER II.

SIR,—I come now to your definition of the connection of Church and State. You reduce "its essential features" to two, which you thus describe:—

The first is that the State should recognise and support some religious expression of the community; the second that this religious expression should be controlled and guided by the State. These two elements are inseparable, and must be attacked and defended together.*

Without pledging myself to the correctness of this definition, I shall adopt it as the basis of my argument with you. It will facilitate my work to have a test supplied by yourself, to which, as occasion serves, I may appeal.

Your definition is preceded by a notice of certain accidents, as you term them, which you distinguish from the essence of the connection. What you enumerate as accidents, are "Endowments," "Secular offices of the clergy," and "Constant interference of the State." I need not dispute with you as to the correctness of the terms accident and essence; but it is necessary that the precise meaning of them should be clearly understood. In your sense of the word, everything is an accident which relates to the form of State Church administration. The things you specify have no peculiarity attaching to them which distinguishes them from other things capable of being differently arranged as the State determines. The matter of vital importance is, that there must, according to your definition, be something answering to recognition and support, control and guidance by the State, whenever the connection of Church and State exists. Whether the support include endowments: or the recognition, secular offices: or the control, constant interference: depends, upon these things being deemed necessary to the carrying out of the several principles with which they may be connected. When you entrust the State with the application of these principles, you concede to it the right to adopt these, or any other means within the sphere of its power, as it may consider them appropriate to its purpose.

The two matters—of secular offices, and constant interference—are of minor concern; but that of endowments cannot be lightly passed over. You say, on this head:—

Endowments materially contribute to the same purpose as an Establishment, and perhaps in some shape almost necessarily flow from it; but an Establishment may exist to a great degree without them, as in the case of Russia, and endowments, as in the case of Nonconformist colleges, can exist without an Establishment.†

I cannot but mark the uncertain manner in which you have thus expressed yourself. These phrases—"materially contribute," "perhaps in some shape almost necessary," and "to a great degree"—give a looseness to your exposition which would prevent any one from making a definite use of it. You evidently shrink from saying in so many words that support by the State can be separated, in fact, from the grant of endowments. That is the real question: and you will not be surprised at my saying that, in spite of all abstract possibilities, as you and I have to do with the question, this separation is impossible. Nay, you yourself shall be the judge of this conclusion. Immediately after giving your definition of the connection of Church and State, you proceed to notice what you denominate the "Practical advantage" of that connection. You represent it as the "benefit of securing a clergy in those parts of the country where it is least likely that such a provision would be made by the people themselves."‡ Such provision cannot be conceived of, without the creation of endowments in favour of the clergy. In these circumstances, the endowment can be no accident; and yet this is your own primary application of that principle of State support which your definition insists upon. It does not, therefore, appear that, in the case before us, your distinction between accident and essence is of much validity. The accident becomes essential when it suits your argument to treat it as such.

On this point of endowments, I have a word or two to offer which may tend to fix the character of that connection of Church and State which it is the purpose of your definition to mark out for defence. You mention the endowments belonging to an Establishment along with those belonging to Nonconformist colleges as though they were altogether things of the same nature. (In the respects, in which these two classes of endowments are similar, I have nothing to say about them. Both the Church of England and Nonconformist Churches possess endowments which may be fitly compared with each

* Stanley's Address, p. 4.
† Stanley's Address, p. 3.
‡ Stanley's Address, p. 4.

other. But there are endowments possessed by the Church of England which differ widely from those of other Churches by virtue of the fact that they are *State endowments*. In this consists their special character, and it is only with endowments of this kind, that either your defence of the connection of Church and State or my animadversions upon it can properly have to do. My objection relates to the principle of State support in all its bearings, but though the injury to which I desire to direct your special attention will exist wherever that support exists, it may be sufficiently exhibited in this one particular of endowments.

What is it that the State, in this form of endowment, is expected by you to support? When you assign to it the recognition of "*some religious expression of the community*," you exclude the religious expression of the community as a whole. The general scope of your address relates to the Establishment of one Church as distinguished from all others. Its most obvious bearing is in the interest of a modification of the present Church of England. You have indeed given intimations that this single-Church theory does not complete your ideal of the subject. You speak of "Nonconforming members and ministers of the National Church," and you further say, "Reunion, absorption, intercommunion, or the like, may be desirable or not."† But such suggestions as these, whatever interpretation they may receive from your hopes and wishes, cannot be permitted to interfere with the plainly limited nature of the interest you propose to have recognised. You do not even claim the character of truth for the "religious expression" which you say the State should patronise, but insist elsewhere upon the duty of "maintaining that which is the creed of the large majority of the nation."‡

Now I ask on what ground of justice, civil or religious, can State endowments, given for the purpose and in the manner just described, be vindicated? All the subjects of the realm, whatever their form of religious belief and practice may be, should be treated by the State on the principle of perfect equality. This is an axiom of right political government. You advocate the support of the religion of a part of the community as distinguished from the rest; and, in doing so, you expose the rest to the unequal treatment of the commonwealth. You occupy yourself a great deal with considerations relating to the control and guidance to be exercised over the favoured portion of citizens; but you take little or no heed of the wrongs which the unfavoured portion has to endure from the very existence of the institution on which such control and guidance are bestowed. But it is there that the great and cardinal evil lies. You will never be able to reconcile that evil with the true duty of the State. You will never be able to reconcile it with the rightful claims of the people. You will never be able to reconcile it with the real welfare of religion. I am a Dissenting minister. The vicar of my parish is, in no higher sense, a British subject, than I am. But the State supports his ministry to the temporal disadvantage of mine. Do you think any argument can or should convince me that I am equitably dealt with? Can you expect me to acknowledge the religious benefit of an endowment which thus operates against my faith? I feel assured that no sense of fair treatment, as between your class and mine, can be produced by anything short of the renunciation of every item of State interference which your idea of the connection of Church and State comprises.

I am, yours sincerely,

JOHN GORDON.

Evesham, June 12, 1868.

THE IRISH CHURCH.

WOMEN'S ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN.—The address to the Queen in defence of the Irish Church originated by the Countess Annesley, Castlewellan, Ireland, and approved of by the Primate, &c., from the Protestant wives, mothers, and daughters of Ireland, has already (a Church newspaper says) above 180,000 signatures.

FORTHCOMING CITY MEETING.—MR. GLADSTONE'S RESOLUTIONS.—In compliance with one of the most numerous and respectably signed requisitions ever adopted in the City, the Lord Mayor has consented to convene and preside at a meeting of the citizens of London, to be held at the Guildhall, on Monday next, at two p.m., to "express their sentiments upon Mr. Gladstone's Established Church (Ireland) Bill."

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND AND THE IRISH CHURCH.—Mr. Gladstone recently presented a petition from the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland, consisting of 1,200 members, and representing one fifth of the population of Scotland, who state in the petition that for three centuries the Irish Church Establishment

had been a stumbling-block to the Protestant faith in Ireland, and they ask for a withdrawal of all State endowments of religious denominations in Ireland.

WOOLWICH.—A conference was held at the Albert Rooms, Woolwich, on Wednesday, June 10th, under the auspices of the Woolwich Branch of the Liberation Society. John Templeton, Esq., F.R.G.S., presided. In the course of his remarks he said, that it was simply on the grounds of justice that Mr. Miall, in 1856, introduced his motion for inquiry, and it was as appealing to the same principle, that Mr. Dillwyn and Sir John Gray, at subsequent periods, brought the subject forward in Parliament, and every one knows that the course adopted by Mr. Gladstone in introducing his now famous resolutions and Suspensory Bill is simply an appeal to the sense of justice of the nation. This is the ground too upon which the battle must be fought at the general election. The opponents of Mr. Gladstone have persistently refused to answer the charge that the Irish Church is an unjust institution, and endeavour to raise issue on other grounds, and this evidently because they have no answer to the indictment. He believed that if the cry of "Gladstone and justice to Ireland" was raised in opposition to the "No Popery" cry, that they would carry the bulk of the liberal and intelligent with them. There was an interesting discussion, in which the Rev. W. Woods, Messrs. White, Davis, Fordham, Meikle, and others, took part. Resolutions expressing cordial approval of Mr. Gladstone's proposals, and a determination to vote only for those candidates who should pledge themselves to support Mr. Gladstone's measures, were unanimously adopted.

METROPOLITAN PRO-CHURCH MEETINGS.—During the past fortnight meetings have been held in various districts of the metropolis, at which the support of the Irish Establishment has been most strenuously advocated, and on Friday evening the movement was inaugurated in Kennington by a meeting at the Horns Tavern, "in support," as set forth in the advertisement by which it was summoned, "of the United Church of England and Ireland, and in maintenance of our Protestant constitution in Church and State." Considerable apprehension was entertained that the business of the evening would be frustrated by the opposition of the opponents of the Irish Church in Lambeth, but with the exception of a few momentary interruptions, the proceedings were conducted to a harmonious conclusion. Mr. Thomas Tilson, J.P., chairman of the Middlesex magistrates, presided. Amongst the speakers were Mr. W. T. Charley, the Rev. R. Gregory, incumbent of St. Mary's-the-Less, Lambeth, Mr. James Lord, Mr. Cecil Raikes, and other gentlemen. The following resolutions were passed:—1. "That this meeting is of opinion that the union of Church and State ought to be maintained, as affording the best means for the promotion of religion and morality amongst the people, and as important alike for the welfare of the State and for the efficiency of the Church." 2. "That this meeting believes that the proposed disestablishment and disendowment of the United Church of England and Ireland would be a serious blow to the reformed faith in the United Kingdom, would materially affect its Protestant constitution, would tend to destroy the supremacy of the Crown, and to promote the ascendancy of a foreign Power within her Majesty's dominions." A memorial to the Crown, founded on the resolutions, was adopted, and thanks were voted to the chairman for presiding.

THE SURREY CONGREGATIONAL UNION AND THE IRISH CHURCH.—At the summer meeting of the Surrey Congregational Union, held at Richmond, on Tuesday last week, the following resolution was passed with unanimity:—

That this union, believing that the Establishment of the Church of England in Ireland is not only inimical to the peace and prosperity of that country, but obstructs the progress of Protestantism, and is otherwise injurious to religion, greatly rejoices at the recent action of the House of Commons, having in view the impartial disendowment of all religious denominations in Ireland. That it requests the chairman and secretaries to sign the following petition to the House of Commons, and also expresses the earnest hope that, at the approaching general election, Nonconformists everywhere will so discharge their duties as citizens, as to ensure the return of a Parliament pledged to carry to a triumphant issue the policy which Mr. Gladstone has so courageously initiated.

Mr. Carvell Williams, in proposing the resolution, said that, before the policy of the Liberal party had been publicly announced, he had been asked whether it would secure the hearty concurrence of the Nonconformist body, and, in reply, he had ventured to express the belief that it would kindle enthusiasm on their part to a greater extent than anything which had occurred during the existence of this generation. Thus far he thought the result had justified that assertion, but in the Nonconforming, as well as in the general political world, there was a residuum, and Mr. Disraeli and his allies were calculating on the support, or the neutrality, of that residuum in both cases. It would, therefore, be the special duty of intelligent and earnest Nonconformists to defeat the flagitious attempts which were being made to mislead Protestant feeling and to excite Protestant timidity. They had a great cause, a sound principle, and a noble leader; and it was impossible to exaggerate the greatness of the opportunity which was now before them. The Rev. A. Mackennal, B.A., expressed his satisfaction that the resolution dealt impartially with all the State-endowed bodies; and also that it insisted on the duty of giving practical effect to their principles at the coming general election. The Rev. F. Stephens said that, while it was right to abolish the Irish Establishment, he did not place confidence in the professed voluntarism of the Roman Catholic leaders; and thought that when this question was disposed of, there would arise a great

conflict between Protestantism and Roman Catholicism. The Rev. W. A. Essery insisted on the supreme importance of concentrating all their energies at the election on this point, leaving other topics which were of a less pressing nature. Their one business just now was to put an end to the Irish Establishment.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—A few nights ago the Rev. Mar-maduke Miller, of Huddersfield, delivered a lecture on the Irish Church, at the Mechanics' Institute, South Shields. Long before the time for beginning, crowds of people thronged to the hall, and when the chair was taken by J. C. Stevenson, Esq. (Mayor of South Shields), the room was crowded to excess in all parts by an enthusiastic audience, amongst whom were several ladies and clergymen and corporate officers of the town and neighbourhood. Mr. Miller's lecture was very favourably received. Having been asked whether he would accept a challenge to discuss the Irish Church question publicly with Mr. Massingham, Mr. Miller said his notion was that delivering lectures, to which replies could be given, was the best way of eliciting the truth, and he had special objections to meeting Dr. Massingham here. The Rev. W. Hanson read a petition to Parliament in favour of the disendowment of the Irish Church, and moved that it be forwarded to Mr. Ingham for presentation. Mr. Crass seconded, and the Rev. Mr. Baker supported the resolution. The motion was about to be put, when Dr. Denham moved as an amendment that, as the townspeople had not had opportunities of hearing both sides of the question, further proceedings should be delayed until a lecture promised by the Rev. S. Atkinson (a clergyman), had been given. The amendment, on being put to the meeting, was lost by a majority of seven to one, and the original resolution was then carried amid a perfect storm of applause.

THE REV. BREWIN GRANT AS A PROTESTANT STATE CHURCH LECTURER.—A correspondent of the *Sheffield Independent* writes from Burslem:—Last week the walls of this town (Burslem) were placarded with a notice that on Monday, at the Town Hall, Burslem, the Rev. Brewin Grant would deliver a lecture on the Irish Church Question; a Dissenter's view of it. Some 250 persons attended, and were treated to an hour and a half's address on the Romanist tendencies of Messrs. Gladstone and Bright, the question of the disestablishment of the Irish Church being prudently left almost untouched. Mr. Grant simply finding fault with what he considered to be Mr. Gladstone's intention of ultimately disposing of the proceeds of the disestablishment. The chair was occupied by the Rev. Dr. Armstrong, the rector of Burslem, who commenced the proceedings by prayer, after which he quoted the "6th Article of Religion" from the Book of Common Prayer, and argued that all who insisted upon disestablishing the Irish Church were in effect declaring that the "Holy Scriptures did not contain all things necessary to salvation," &c., &c., a piece of logic which was received with ironical cheers. In fact, the excited remarks of the chairman and the cool assurance of the lecturer kept the audience in almost continued laughter. The continual byplay of wit and sarcasm between the lecturer and some of the audience gave quite a ludicrous aspect to the proceedings. Notwithstanding the confident assertion of the rev. lecturer that it was utterly impossible for a single Nonconformist to go away from the meeting without being converted to his view of the matter, I can assure you that several advocates of the disestablishment have declared to me their conviction that the lecture will do their cause more good than all the lectures of the Liberation Society's agents. At the close of the lecture a vote of thanks was proposed to the Rev. Mr. Grant, which, after a short pause, was seconded by a man who declared that he did so on the understanding that the vote did not pledge the meeting to accept Mr. Grant's conclusions. A show of hands was then called for, and about thirty persons responded, whereupon the chairman immediately declared the vote carried unanimously, and showed his impartiality by not asking for a show of hands to the contrary. We observe that the Cemetery-road Congregational Church, Sheffield, have unanimously accepted, with a polite expression of regret, the resignation of the Rev. Brewin Grant.

ALDERSHOT.—An excellent meeting has been held in this place; its promoters having found that a petition in favour of the Irish Church had been presented to the House of Commons as that of "the inhabitants of Aldershot." The meeting took place in the Assembly-room. Mr. E. Eve took the chair, and was supported by the Rev. W. Campbell (Presbyterian minister), Dr. Young, Mr. W. Reavell, Mr. Clinton, Mr. Coffey, Mr. Gregory, and other gentlemen. The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, very neatly explained the object of the meeting. He was followed by the Rev. N. T. Langridge, who delivered a lecture in favour of Irish disestablishment, which was very heartily received. Dr. Young, in moving the adoption of a petition to the House of Commons on the subject, said, *inter alia*, it had been said that the disestablishment of the Irish Church would be inserting the thin end of the wedge, and that subsequently the red-hot Dissenters would hammer and thump until they got the big end in also, and completely disendowed the whole of the English Church, so that clergymen would have to get their living like their poor ouates. (Laughter.) Personally, perhaps, he would not object to such a course; but, after all, he thought the Church had nothing whatever to fear from disestablishment, as

* Stanley's Address, p. 27.

† Stanley's Address, p. 27.

‡ Stanley's Address, p. 26.

it would doubtless be well supported on the voluntary principle, like the Free Church of Scotland, of which he was a member. Mr. Coffey, in an able speech, seconded the motion, and pointed out the enormous difference between the Established Church in England and the Established Church of England in Ireland. The Rev. S. C. Morgan, Incumbent of Aldershot, asked, among other things, how many parishes there were in Ireland with no Protestants to minister to, and if the incomes of bishops mentioned referred to dioceses still in existence. Mr. Langridge replied that there were in Ireland 199 parishes in which there was not a single Church Protestant, and he was not aware that he had mentioned a single diocese not in existence. Mr. Morgan, alluding to the proposition to disestablish the Irish Church, said he never trusted to promises from Mr. Gladstone. He knew that Archbishop Manning considered it a concession to Popery, and he thought it very unwise to make such concession. He maintained that the cry of "No Popery" was a very fair cry, and ultimately moved as an amendment, "That the Irish Church be not disestablished." He also took the opportunity of explaining that the petition lately sent to Parliament merely purported to come from "the undersigned." The amendment was then put to the meeting, when the Chairman declared twelve were in favour of it. The original motion was carried by an overwhelming majority. Mr. Clinton moved the next resolution:—

That this meeting desires to tender its hearty thanks to the Right Honourable W. E. Gladstone, for the manly, honest, and truly Christian course he has pursued with reference to this important question, and pledges itself at the coming election to support those candidates who will adhere to his policy.

Mr. Gregory seconded the motion, which was carried amid acclamation and enthusiasm. Thanks were moved to the lecturer and chairman. One of the movers, in doing so, referred to the fact that in Canada, Australia, and America, where religion was free, there was no dread of Popery, whereas in the Church of England, which had been considered the great bulwark against Popery, there were 2,000 clergymen preaching rank Popery. (Cheers.)

CHEW.—On Tuesday evening last a public meeting was held in the Town Hall, under the auspices of the Crewe Constitutional Association, the chair being occupied by J. H. Leche, Esq., of Carden. There was a crowded audience, the majority evidently being Liberals. The Rev. S. G. Potter, rector of Danecormick, who appears to be on a lecturing tour in England, delivered an address on the Irish Church question, contending that it was no grievance to the Irish people. At the close discussion was invited, and Mr. John Eaton said there were a few gentlemen present who wished to say something on the point, but as it was impossible to answer the question fully that night, on behalf of the Crewe branch of the Reform Union, he undertook to bring forward a gentleman who would debate the question with Mr. Potter on some future occasion. A quarter of an hour was granted to each speaker, and thereupon the Rev. E. Glover spoke, and was replied to by Mr. Potter. Next the Rev. W. H. Allen spoke, and the lecturer replied. The Chairman next called upon Mr. John Bingham, of the National Protestant Union, who was present, to speak. The majority of the audience were disinclined to hear Mr. Bingham for some time, as they said it was unfair that two speakers on one side should be heard consecutively, but after a little rather noisy parley he proceeded, and spoke about half an hour, when the opposition again commenced, and he could not be heard a yard from the platform to the conclusion of his address. The Rev. W. Blake then spoke for ten minutes or so, and afterwards the Rev. Mr. M'Kinley for about the same time, which somewhat balanced the apparent unfairness. Mr. Potter again spoke, and raised great uproar by reading part of a letter of Mr. Spurgeon's in reply to some remarks by one of the speakers. At this point three cheers were called for Mr. Spurgeon, and vigorously given. Mr. Henry Newman then attempted to gain a hearing, but was unsuccessful, and spoke a short time to the reporters only. The Rev. Joseph Nadan moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, and called the Liberatorists—a few of whom were near the platform—"a happy family," and began to describe a "happy family" he once saw, consisting of a squirrel, a monkey, &c., when such a storm of hooting commenced that he desisted. Mr. M. Heath, "as one of the 'happy family,'" begged to second the motion, as he thought the chairman had acted very fairly, considering he had had a very difficult position to occupy. The audience then quietly dispersed at twelve o'clock, the meeting having occupied four hours. The challenge was not accepted by Mr. Potter, but Mr. Bingham declared his readiness to meet any gentleman on the opposite side of the question.

MR. GLADSTONE AND MR. MIALI.

The following is an extract from a speech reported to have been delivered by Mr. Bevan, a local banker, at the Irish Church meeting at Bury St. Edmunds, on Wednesday:—

Mr. Gladstone has comforted us with the assurance that our hour has not yet arrived; but it is only three years ago that he administered the same consolation to the Church of Ireland. He has since then taken counsel with Mr. Miall. That is to say, that William Ewart Gladstone, M.P. for Newark (not yet arrived as member for South Lancashire), the champion of the Church, he who wrote the book called "Church Principles considered in their Results," and "The State in its Relation to the Church," he has taken counsel with Mr. Miall, the editor of the *Nonconformist* newspaper,

and the writer of a great many tracts having for their object the injury of the Church of England. They have considered what is a fair sum to offer the Church of England to purchase the expression of the nation's conscience in sacred things—for how much they will purchase a glorious past, a hopeful present, and future anticipations such as cannot now be imagined. They say they have settled it, and that they will not do wrong if they offer the sum of —. But Mr. Gladstone did not state at once what the sum was to be. He went on to say that if the Church of England should ever come to be in the same position she would be treated in a more liberal spirit—much more liberally than we have any idea of—more liberally than it is proposed to treat the Church of Ireland, and, having wound up the interest of the House of Commons to the dramatic point, he mentions the sum of ninety millions. When the price of the victim is settled, it has not long to live. Let us, therefore, bestir ourselves; let us take counsel of our prudence, if not of our sympathy and duty, and let us throw up our entrenchments upon the very precincts of the Irish Church.

These remarks having been brought under public attention in the *Daily News*, Mr. Miall writes to that journal as follows:—"Mr. Bevan's statement is wholly unfounded in fact. Since I lost my seat in the House of Commons in 1857, I have met Mr. Gladstone but twice—the first time at the funeral of my lamented friend Mr. Cobden, when we merely interchanged a sentence or two on the melancholy event; the second time about the beginning of the present session, when I waited on him with Mr. Harcourt, M.P., and two other gentlemen, to point out certain objections we had to clauses in the Compulsory Church-rates Abolition Bill. I need not say that nothing passed between us on either occasion in reference to the disendowment of the Irish or the English Church. I have never written to Mr. Gladstone, nor received any written communication from him, but once, and the subject of that interchange of notes was Parliamentary Reform—the date, as near as I can recollect, 1865. I have had no intermediate intercourse with Mr. Gladstone through other persons on the question of the Church of England. Mr. Gladstone has, therefore, never 'taken counsel' with me on the subject. I have never 'considered' what is a fair sum to offer the Church of England for its rights, consequently we have never 'agreed as to the amount.' In a lecture delivered at Bristol, some six or seven years ago, I mentioned the personal interests and vested rights I was prepared to indemnify, and the concessions of equity and consideration I thought it would be well to make in case of a disendowment of the Anglican Church; and Mr. Gladstone, meeting, I suppose, with a printed copy of that lecture, and estimating the capitalised worth of the things I had conceded, told the House of Commons that they would amount to between \$80,000,000 and \$90,000,000. That is all the foundation there is for Mr. Bevan's statement; and even that, so far as Mr. Gladstone is concerned, is simply my own conjecture. In short, like many other electioneering fictions which I have met with of late, Mr. Bevan's is perfectly gratuitous, and (I would fain think) utterly unworthy of the cause he designs to serve."

In a letter to the *Daily News*, complaining of the editor's strictures, Mr. Bevan says:—

I can safely affirm that those who heard me at the meeting could never for an instant have supposed that I intended to convey the impression that a personal interview had taken place between Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Miall, and that a species of "Lichfield-house compact" had been then and there solemnly struck between them, affecting any future treatment of the Church of England to be pursued by the one and supported by the other. I merely stated what is notorious from Mr. Gladstone's speech of April 30. He there says that Mr. Miall has announced certain terms as a pecuniary compensation to the Church of England in the event of her ultimate disendowment—an event which Mr. Gladstone professed to treat as remote, and which, I distinctly stated, he professed to regard as remote. Mr. Gladstone recognises Mr. Miall's proposed terms as those of the Nonconformists, and states, as his own opinion, that Mr. Miall's proposals "go to an extraordinary length in tenderness and liberality." If there is no constructive harmony of thought and feeling conveyed in such modes of expression, I do not know what would convey it, short of a formal statement to that effect. I will also add that Mr. Disraeli, in his reply, alluding to these remarks of Mr. Gladstone, says:—"But, says the right hon. gentleman, the views of Mr. Miall are of the very mildest character. He would rather enrich than plunder the Church," and more to the same effect. There is no intimation of dissent from this interpretation on the part of Mr. Gladstone. In conclusion, allow me to add that I am not a Tory, as you suppose, nor do my opinions on this subject lay me open to so grave an imputation, more than Dean Stanley's appearance at the meeting at St. James's Hall, upon the same subject, implies that he sympathises with the Bishop of Oxford, or with Mr. Newdegate.

Our contemporary rejoins that, unless the reporters have wronged him, Mr. Bevan said more than he is now willing to acknowledge, and refers him to Mr. Gladstone's speech of April 30th for its plain meaning instead of trying to construct a new one:—"If Mr. Bevan will look again at that portion of Mr. Gladstone's speech which he quotes he will see that he has altogether mistaken its argumentative purpose and force. Mr. Gladstone, while disclaiming sympathy with Mr. Miall and others who wish to disestablish the Church of England, pointed out, in answer to a vulgar cry, that even Mr. Miall and the Liberator Society do not wish, in disestablishing, to despoil the Church, but are prepared to deal with it tenderly and liberally. We are not at all surprised to find that Mr. Disraeli was beforehand with Mr. Bevan in his perversion of Mr. Gladstone's words. It is by this sort of misrepresentation, whether it be due to heated imagination or cool contrivance, and by the readiness with which it finds dupes and echoes, that the Prime

Minister endeavours to deaden the conscience and awaken the passions and prejudices of the nation."

PROPOSED UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHMEN AND DISSENTERS AGAINST RITUALISM.

A conference was held on Monday week at Mr. and Mrs. Allcroft's, Porchester-terrace, upon "The means of promoting Christian Union, and of removing from the Prayer-book those forms which are used to sanction Romanism, and are a great hindrance to the Church of Christ." About eighty ladies and gentlemen were present, including several Nonconformist ministers. Lord Alfred Churchill presided.

The Rev. Dr. Fay stated the object of the meeting in an address of which the following were the leading points:—It had been called, he said, to give expression to a conviction, believed to be general amongst Evangelical Christians—namely, that those who value the doctrine and worship taught in the inspired Word of God are urgently called upon at the present time to unite in its defence, and in opposing the progress of Romanism in this country. The promoters of the meeting believed it to be an undoubted fact that, as proved by the statements of the Romanising party in the Church, certain forms and passages in the Prayer-book were the real source of the evil; such, for instance, as those supposed to authorise priestly confession and absolution, the doctrine of the Real Presence, and that sacramental grace was conveyed absolutely and invariably in priestly ordinances. Under these circumstances, it appeared very plain that, in order to prevent the progress of Romanism, the direct and effectual means would be to remove these Romanising passages and forms from the Prayer-book, especially as such had been constantly protested against by the most godly and evangelical of the reformers, and had been the cause of cruel persecutions and grievous divisions in the Church. With this view the Sunday services, the offices of baptism, &c., and even the Catechism, had been revised by a number of ministers and others representing the Evangelical churches, who had been engaged in the work at weekly meetings for over a year. The revised Prayer-book had then been submitted to the organs of opinion of the Evangelical Churches, who without exception had commended the work, with very strong declaration of the general benefit which would result from its adoption.

The Hon. and Rev. E. B. Blich, the Rev. J. S. Russell, and the Rev. Dr. King, having spoken, Lord Ebury expressed his gratitude to his Nonconformist brethren for the attitude they had taken on the question, and said he felt that they had something to forgive, observing that Evangelical Churchmen were now asking the Nonconformists to do what Bishop Sancroft had asked their predecessors when the Church was similarly menaced, in the reign of James II. Churchmen and Nonconformists must lay aside all their prejudices and act together, as it was only by so doing that they could succeed in preserving their common faith.

The Earl of Chichester then proposed the following resolution:—

That a society be formed, to be called the Evangelical Church Union, and that the following form the council of the Union, with power to add to their number (names follow). His lordship stated his anxiety to see all phrases of doubtful Protestantism expunged from the Prayer-book; but he still more earnestly wished for a union among all denominations of Protestant Christians. He asked for the prayers of Nonconformists on behalf of the Church in the trials through which she was passing, and trusted that the result would be, under God's blessing and care, that the pure Protestant Evangelical principles of the Reformation would be more firmly established than ever in the land. The resolution was briefly seconded by Mr. Allcroft, and carried unanimously.

The Rev. Newman Hall, Dr. Angus, and Dr. Gladstone spoke at some length, and in terms of approval, of the objects of the meeting, and thanks were voted to the chairman for presiding, and to Mr. and Mrs. Allcroft for their hospitality; after which the meeting was further addressed by the Rev. Mr. Bingham, Mr. Ellis, Dr. Davis, Mr. W. Miller, Mr. Deverell, Lord A. Churchill, Dr. Fry, and other gentlemen.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE NATAL BISHOPRIC QUESTION.

Another official despatch on the Natal question is published. It is as follows:—

Downing-street, 23rd May, 1868.

Sir,—In my despatch of the 30th January last I informed you of a report which had reached her Majesty's Government that it was in contemplation by some of the colonial bishops to consecrate a bishop to take charge of the diocese of Natal on the assumption that Dr. Colenso had been legally deposed, and I instructed you as to the course which you were to pursue in such an event.

I have, however, since received from the Bishop of Capetown various communications on the subject, which render it necessary that I should again address you respecting it.

His lordship entirely disclaims the idea that he and those who act with him contemplate interfering with any legal rights which Dr. Colenso may have; he explains that it is only proposed to consecrate a bishop who shall perform episcopal function for such of the clergy and laity as well in Zululand and the adjacent parts as in Natal, &c., who may be willing voluntarily to submit themselves to him.

I am informed also by his Lordship that although the particular title by which such bishop should be consecrated will be a question for the decision of the several bishops of the province, he does not desire that such

bishop should be consecrated by the title of Bishop of Natal, or of any place within that diocese, or by any other title which might be regarded as an infringement of rights purporting to be conferred by the Letters Patent.

Under these circumstances I do not think it necessary that her Majesty's Government should interpose any obstacle whatever to such proceeding, or that you should use any influence to prevent it.

I should wish you to communicate a copy of this despatch at once to the Bishop of Grahamstown. I shall also communicate a copy of it to the Bishop of Capetown.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.
The Officer Administering the Government of
Cape of Good Hope.

The *Guardian*, referring to the Duke of Buckingham's earlier despatch, viz., that of January 30 to the Lieutenant-Governor of Natal, says:—"This despatch is an order to the governor of a colony to interfere in a religious dispute agitating a religious body within the colony which is not established by law, and stands, according to the judgment of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, in precisely the same situation as any Nonconformist society, 'no better but no worse.' To 'prevent' a person from being consecrated to a purely spiritual office in this society the governor is to use 'all the influence which legitimately belongs to him.' He is not to be content with administering the law, which is his proper business; he is to use 'influence'; and her Majesty's Government, their 'views,' their 'apprehensions' and regrets, are dragged into the internal politics of a religious community which, in the eye of the law, is exactly on the same level with the Baptists and Unitarians. Is it possible to involve the Queen's name and authority in a contest more undignified, unbecoming, unwise? Is it possible to place the Crown or the Government in a more thoroughly false position? We can understand a church or society established by law; we can understand a church or society which is voluntary and unestablished. But a religious community which is neither one thing nor the other, and in which the Government, imperial or local, contributing nothing to its support, and exercising within it no legal authority, is to enforce its views by 'influence,' and by making use of the Queen's name, is a thing which we do not understand; and Churchmen in Natal, if they think with us, would rather worship God in a hovel or on a hillside than submit to this feeble and ridiculous tyranny. All this arises from not accepting, fully, frankly, and at once, the consequences of the principle that the Church in the colonies is a voluntary religious association, with which the Sovereign, as such, has no more right or business to meddle than with any other religious association—consequences which the principle draws inseparably after it, and which must necessarily be admitted in the long run."

CHURCH-RATES AT MIDDLEWICH.—In this parish a few days ago a rate was rejected by eighty-nine to fifty-six votes on a show of hands. No poll was demanded. The rate was vigorously opposed by the Rev. G. K. Chambers and other Nonconformists.

FAILURE OF MURPHYISM AT BRADFORD.—A course of four lectures against Popery was announced by a Mr. P. Flynn, for delivery during the past week at Bradford. The first, "On the Aspect of the Times," should have been delivered on Monday evening week. Not more than a dozen persons were present, and the lecturer returned the money paid, and refrained from the delivery of the lecture announced.

THE REV. H. CHRISTOPHERSON.—Among the gentlemen just admitted to priests' orders by the Bishop of London was the Rev. Henry Christopherson, formerly an Independent minister. Since his ordination to the diaconate in the Church of England he has held the curacy of St. Clement's, Notting-hill. He has now resigned this, and is engaged for the present to assist at St. Paul's, Campden-hill, Archdeacon Sinclair having given the title for priests' orders.

THE OPENING OF OXFORD UNIVERSITY.—The names of Mr. S. D. Waddy, the barrister, Sir Francis Lycett, the brothers M'Arthur, and some other Wesleyan gentlemen, are connected, in conversation, with an approaching meeting at Oxford for the foundation of a lecture like the Bampton—preliminary, as is reported, to the formation of a new college in that university on the passing of Mr. Coleridge's Universities Bill.

ASSOCIATED INSURANCE OF PLACES OF WORSHIP.—The General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland have accepted a plan by which that body will become the insurers of their own places of worship and ecclesiastical fabrics. There is a guarantee fund of £10,000 to start the scheme. It is estimated that by this means the Church will save, in the aggregate, £2,000 or £3,000 a-year for mission purposes. A series of regulations for the working of the scheme have been adopted.

AN UNSEEMLY FRACAS was caused in Cuckfield parish church on a recent Sunday by the churchwarden. The Bishop of Chichester was there to administer confirmation. Mr. Daniel Pratt attended amongst the crowded congregation, and, having seated himself in a vacant pew, which turned out to have been intended for the candidates for confirmation, was, without explanation, collared by the churchwarden. The warden could not drag him forcibly from the seat; but, on his threat of sending for a policeman, Mr. Pratt, that there might be no further disturbance, left the church. The matter forms the subject of a correspondence in the *Sussex Advertiser*. The churchwarden refuses to apologise, and Mr. Pratt asks "the public to say if his conduct is a specimen which Churchmen will be willing to adopt of doing things 'decently and in order,' and

whether the treatment to which he (Mr. Pratt) was subjected at his hands, in a place of public worship, is the kind of welcome which a Nonconformist, and consequently a stranger to its services, is to expect if he wishes to be present on any special occasion."

RITUAL COMMISSION.—It is understood that the Ritual Commission have resolved not to restrict their inquiries within the limits of their original Commission, but to submit all of the rubrics of the Prayer-book to a searching revision. According to report, the Archbishop of Canterbury has expressed his satisfaction at the course adopted, and it may be also gathered from what passed at the meeting of the English Church Union at Brighton last week, that the presence of Mr. Perry as their representative on the Commission is deemed more and more essential to the interests of Ritualism.—*Record*.

CHURCH-RATES IN BERKHAMPTON.—At a vestry held on Wednesday, the churchwardens' accounts for the past year were unanimously passed, and the late unprecedented strife, resulting from the forced exaction of Church-rates, has been succeeded by more amicable proceedings. Many of the Dissenters who not twelve months before had their goods taken for a Church-rate, have liberally subscribed toward the restoration of the fine old parish church, in sums from £3 3s. to £50. In three weeks the Church Restoration Fund amounted to nearly £3,000. The churchwardens have issued a notice calling a meeting of the parishioners for this evening to obtain money by voluntary subscriptions for the expenses of the church for 1868-1869.

THE GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATION IN NONCONFORMIST SCHOOLS.—Because the Government cannot carry their Education Bill, they refuse to fulfil the promise which they made to Mr. Baines and Mr. Morley to withdraw the eighth clause of the Revised Code, which requires that every school receiving Government aid must be in connection with some religious denomination, or have the Scriptures read in it daily. This seems to be as contemptible as it is irrational. Some Nonconformists who would have taken the grants, if they had been given merely for secular instruction, will now find themselves compelled to stand aloof. We gather from a question put by Mr. Baines a few nights ago, that the Government had promised to adopt Homerton College as a training college, but this understanding they now refuse to ratify.—*The English Independent*.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL TITLES ACT.—An unexpected and important decision was arrived at on Thursday by Earl Stanhope's Select Committee of Peers on the proposed repeal of the Ecclesiastical Titles Act in Great Britain and Ireland. After repeated sittings, which were characterised by some acrimonious feeling, the committee, by a large majority, determined to report against the expediency of in any degree altering the existing law; and it became pretty well understood last night in political circles that this resolution has been to a great extent influenced by the audacious demands which the Irish Roman Catholic bishops, through Dr. Leahy and Dr. Derry, have put forward in their correspondence with the Earl of Mayo for absolute and complete control in the government of an Irish Catholic University, should her Majesty's Ministers grant a Royal Charter and induce Parliament to defray the necessary expenses of professors.—*Advertiser*.

LIGHTED CANDLES AND INCENSE IN THE SERVICES OF THE CHURCH.—The second report of the commissioners appointed to inquire into the rubrics, orders, and directions for regulating the course and conduct of public worship in the Church of England, together with the minutes of evidence, was published in the form of a blue-book last week. The report with the evidence and appendix extends over nearly 700 pages. In the appendix the report of the case of "Martin v. Mackenochie" is given in *extenso*, and there are added a number of injunctions and articles issued by various archbishops, bishops, and other dignitaries of the Church between the years 1561 and 1730. In the document now laid before Parliament the commissioners have directed their attention specially to the use of lighted candles in celebrating the Holy Communion, when they are not needed for the purpose of giving light, and the use of incense in the public services of the Church. The issue of this document has already been anticipated by the publication of the report itself, as well as of the objections made by the dissentient members of the commission.

THE IRISH PRESBYTERIANS AND THE REGIUM DONUM.—The dispute in the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church on the subject of religious endowment is, it seems, not yet at an end. It broke out again on Wednesday, when the Rev. Mr. Berkeley read a long protest, on the part of the minority, setting forth reasons for objecting to the resolutions which were adopted by the majority. The reasons briefly are because—1, the resolutions make endowment a necessary element in carrying out the principles of an Establishment; 2, they contain no statement disapproving the present ecclesiastical arrangements in Ireland, and seem to commit the Assembly to "a policy which tends to the perpetuation of the grant to Maynooth, and to the upholding of the Church as by law established"; 3, because, the alternative before the country being one of general endowment or general disendowment, they contain no protest against the former, and will be interpreted in favour of it; 4, because the Assembly ought, in the spirit of patriotism, to look beyond its own immediate interests, and to declare that it prefers general disendowment to indiscriminate endowment; 5, because the opportunity now presented of having the injustice which Presbyterians have suffered for two centuries removed should not be lost, and that the "Assembly ought to have declared that a measure of disestablishment and disendowment, if unfortunately carried out, would be for the good of all the

Protestant churches of this country as well as for the benefit of the entire population"; 6, because, while protesting against the withdrawal of the *Regium Donum*, the resolutions neither suggest a remedy in the event of its being withdrawn, nor recognise the all-sufficiency of Providence to provide adequate means of support; 7, because the resolutions tend to isolate the Church; 8, because no committee should be allowed to deal with questions of such importance without consulting the Assembly. The protest was entered on the minutes, and on the motion of the Rev. Dr. Dill a committee was appointed to prepare a reply to the reasons. This will open up the whole controversy anew.

AN EPISCOPAL REBUKE OF CLERICAL PANIC-MONGERS.—At the dedication of a church at Tibberton, last week, the Rev. T. Smyth (Hindlip) made a speech denunciatory of Mr. Gladstone's policy on the Irish Church; but the *Worcester Journal* says the company generally disapproved of this as very ill-timed, and several left the tent. The Bishop of Worcester observed upon this that he had taken Mr. Smyth's speech as a hint that he (the bishop) ought to be attending his duties in the House of Lords. But the fact was that, with so much work to do at home in his diocese, it was impossible for him to watch the Parliamentary proceedings so as to be ready to take a part in them at all times. He would make no promise with regard to the Irish Church Bill, but the probability was that when it came on for discussion in the House of Lords he should be found voting to Mr. Smyth's satisfaction. At all events, that subject did not concern or affect the occasion on which they were assembled. They were met for a far different and more pleasing purpose than the discussion of politics, and no doubt they all felt that so far as the church of Tibberton was concerned, it was not in danger of being disendowed or disestablished for hundreds of years to come.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN JAMAICA.—There has been a Church Congress in Jamaica, which met on the 13th May and sat for two days, the bishop presiding. The Clergy Bill expires at the end of the year, and the clergy fear that it will not be renewed, and that they will thenceforth have to shift for themselves. One speaker thought it desirable that the bishop should confer with the governor, in order to ascertain the intentions of the Government with regard to the future, so that the work of reconstruction might begin at once, before the "tide of feeling which had commenced in reference to Ireland," had set in. The bishop said that whatever the course the governor had seen fit to pursue, the principle of the union of Church and State had always been recognised. The governor had come to the island when it was in a most unsettled condition, and apparently thought it necessary to do certain things, but he had no knowledge of the character of the country. The bishop was convinced that the governor's contemplated measures of disestablishment would undergo revision when he became convinced of the importance of the clergy to the people. Petitions have been presented to the Legislative Council from different congregations of Baptists in the island, praying for the disendowment of the Established Church. The leading Liberal organ of the island, the *Kingston Morning Journal*, declares that "the Church, as by law established in Jamaica, is doomed beyond all hope of recovery, and that its last days have come."

TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN, AND MAYNOOTH.—Returns have been published relative to the revenues, &c., of Trinity College, Dublin, and St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. It appears from this document that the number of acres in the lands granted by the Crown, the perpetuity of which has been taken out by the tenants, is 157,282a. 1r. 21p., and the net rental amounts to 23,988l. 13s. 10d. The number of students on the college books under the standing of M.A., made up to the latest date, and distributed amongst different religious denominations, was 1,392, of which number 1,233 are described as belonging to the Established Church, and 159 as Roman Catholics. The College of Maynooth is erected on land in perpetuity, containing 123a. 1r. 28p., for which the college pays the annual rent of 194l. 10s. 6d. As tenant at will, the college also holds a farm from the Duke of Leinster, containing 218a. 0r. 4p., the rent of which is 300l. per annum. The only land for which the college receives any rent is the Dunboyne estate, containing 438a. 0r. 35p., let under fee-farm grant at the gross annual rent of 461l. 18s. 2d. The net rent received varies with the taxes, and may be taken at an average of 420l. per annum. There are no fines levied in the college, and the only fees are those payable by students at entrance, and which amount to 8l. 8s. each. The average receipts under this head have, however, during the last seven years amounted to 766l. 16s. per annum. The sum voted for the college from the Consolidated Fund this year was 26,251l. 10s. 11d., which is a slight decrease on all the grants made since 1847. The number of students registered on the 1st of January last was 524.

Religious and Denominational News.

Mr. Thomas Webster, of Airedale College, Bradford, has received and accepted a unanimous invitation to become pastor of the church at Kirkby Stephen, Westmoreland.

The Rev. Joseph Croft, who has been pastor of the Independent Church at Biron for the long space of forty years, has lately resigned his charge, owing to failing health and strength.

The Rev. Samuel Oddie, of Osett, Yorkshire, having lately intimated his intention of soon resigning his duties as pastor of the church, a cordial

and unanimous invitation has been received and accepted by Mr. Jephthah Forshaw, of Airedale College, to become co-pastor and successor.

The Rev. I. W. Tapper, LL.D., formerly of Wood-green, has accepted an invitation to the pastorate of the Congregational church, Burgess-hill, Brighton.

CHEQUER-ALLEY, once infamous for the lowest and grossest vice, is now a Wesleyan missionary station. A chapel is to be built, towards which the largest contributor is the Rev. F. W. Briggs, whose little book about it, entitled, "A Story of Successful Christian Work," has yielded profits amounting to 150*l.*, all of which he has given to the building fund.

ALDERSHOT.—The Rev. R. Campbell, minister of the Presbyterian Church in this place, was last Wednesday, at a social meeting of the congregation, presented with an address and purse of gold as a token of their appreciation of his labours. The Bible-class presented him with a copy of "Skeats's History of the Free Churches of England," as a token of esteem for his services in conducting the class.

ROCHDALE.—On Saturday afternoon, Mr. Samuel Stitt, of Liverpool, laid the corner-stone of a new Presbyterian Church at Rochdale, in the presence of large assembly. The church is designed to accommodate 812 persons, 660 on the ground floor, and 152 in the gallery, and the cost will be about 6,000*l.* The Mayor of Rochdale, Mr. Whittaker, and others, spoke a few words of encouragement, and the ceremony was brought to a close.

THE REV. DR. VAUGHAN.—Our readers will all learn with the deepest regret that the Rev. Dr. Robert Vaughan is seriously ill. He has been suffering for several days past from congestion of the brain, and is now lying, at his new residence in Torquay, in a comatose condition. The gravest fears are entertained by his friends, but there is still room to hope that this much-honoured minister and veteran Nonconformist may be spared for some further service to his denomination and the church at large.—*English Independent.*

THE REV. J. H. RICE, D.D., one of the ablest writers and best thinkers of the Wesleyan body, died somewhat suddenly on Friday week, in his fifty-second year. He was editor of the *Watchman*, and that journal says of him:—"He was a man of rare gifts and accomplishments. His knowledge was most extensive, and included natural, especially medical science, and metaphysical philosophy, as well as general history and literature, together with no mean acquaintance with Biblical and theological studies. His intellect was subtle, penetrating, and discursive; and he was eminently dispassionate and impartial in his judgments."

THE PRIMITIVE METHODISTS AND GOVERNMENT GRANTS FOR EDUCATION.—During the sitting of the Primitive Methodist Conference at Sunderland, the warmest debate perhaps arose on the question whether Government aid should be received in support of day-schools. The following minute of the General Committee was read:—"That, as it is found from the circuit reports that a large majority of the connexion is in favour of the reception of State aid for the day-schools, the subject be recommended to the consideration of the conference." After a good deal of discussion, it was decided that any station that chose to accept such grants might do so, the majority of the stations having been ascertained to be in favour of such a course.

METHODIST NEW CONNEXION CONFERENCE.—The annual conference of this denomination commenced at Longton, Staffordshire, yesterday, under the presidency of the Rev. J. Taylor, of Stockport. The representatives present numbered 130. A long discussion took place as to the propriety of re-electing a former President, which did not find general favour, and eventually the Rev. O. Hibbert, Sheffield North, was chosen by ballot. The Rev. T. D. Crothers, of Bolton, was appointed secretary; the Rev. J. C. Watts, Burslem, journal secretary; and the Rev. A. McCurdy, of Stalybridge, corresponding secretary. Some business of a formal character was then transacted.

EYRE, SUFFOLK.—The memorial stone of a new Baptist Chapel was laid here on the 4th inst., by Manning Prentice, Esq., of Stowmarket. Subsequently there was a tea-meeting at which some 150 persons were present, and in the evening a numerous attended meeting took place in the Corn Hall, kindly lent by the Mayor, Mr. Prentice presiding and addressing the meeting at some length. The Revs. W. F. Gooch, of Diss; W. Warren (Independent), of Watfield; and O. Talbot (Independent), of Debenham, showed their sympathy in very suitable speeches. The Rev. J. Gibbs moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Prentice, observing that he had the greater satisfaction in so doing as Mr. Prentice did not pronounce their shibboleth. He thanked the friends of all denominations for contributing towards the new chapel. The cost will be about 800*l.*, towards which the congregation have contributed about 300*l.*, and friends of various denominations, 120*l.* Some of the sums were from noblemen and clergymen, a kind of return to the Baptists for their help in the restoration of the parish church.

LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The half-yearly meeting of the Lincolnshire County Association, was held at Gainsborough on Wednesday and Thursday, June 3rd and 4th, when the association sermon was preached by the Rev. Josiah Miller, M.A., of Newark. Business of a very profitable nature was transacted; encouraging reports from the various stations were read, and a spirited public meeting was held, at which eloquent addresses were given by the Revs. E. Metcalf, A. Murray, J. Shaw, W. F. Clarkson, B.A., and T. Davey. Short speeches

were also made by the pastor of the church, the Rev. H. Lockett, and W. Cook, Esq., the chairman, all bearing upon the work of the association, and the great religious questions of the day. The following petition to Parliament was agreed to be sent to Mr. Gladstone:—

The humble petition of the ministers and delegates of the Lincolnshire Congregational Association, representing the Congregational churches in the county of Lincoln, assembled at Gainsborough, June 4th, Sheweth,

That your petitioners, being thoroughly convinced that the existence of an Established Church is antagonistic to the interests of religion and the welfare of society, have heard with great satisfaction that the resolutions for the disestablishment of the Church of England in Ireland introduced by the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone have passed your honourable House, and humbly pray that your honourable House would carry without delay such measures as would give effect to the said resolutions.

And your petitioners will ever pray.
(Signed on behalf of the Lincolnshire Congregational Association of Ministers and Churches)
HENRY LOCKETT, Chairman.

OPEN-AIR MISSION.—A crowded meeting was held on Monday evening, in the Alexandra Rooms, Blackheath, to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the Open-air Mission. The chair was taken at seven o'clock by the Right Hon. Lord Ebury, and addresses were delivered by the Rev. J. H. Titcomb, M.A., of St. Stephen's, South Lambeth; Rev. Adolph Saphir, B.A., of Greenwich; Rev. R. H. Marten, B.A., of Lee; Count A. Bernstoff, from Prussia; Mr. W. H. G. Kingston; and Mr. C. D. Fox. Mr. John Macgregor, honorary secretary, read an abstract of the report, which stated that 158 special gatherings had been visited during the year, such as races, fairs, executions, &c., in addition to the ordinary work of street preaching, and that 518,000 tracts had been distributed. The secretary read the balance-sheet, which showed that 541*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* had been received, and 487*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.* expended, leaving a balance in hand of 54*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.* The annual sermon was preached on Sunday morning, in St. John's Church, Deptford, by the incumbent, the Rev. O. F. S. Money, M.A. Open-air preaching is continued on Blackheath, from three o'clock till dusk on Sunday, and from three till six on Monday.

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.—The annual meetings of the society in London and Dublin are now concluded. It appears from the statistical returns that in Ireland there are 2,898 members, 1,320 of whom are male, and 1,578 female. From returns made to the assembly in London, it appears there are in Great Britain 13,815 members. There are 265 recorded ministers, and about 400 unrecorded. The 265 are distributed in 129 meetings, leaving 192 without any. The disbursements for Church-rates, tithe-rent charge, and other demands, were 280 for an aggregate amount of 1,902*l.* The amount of disbursements in Ireland was about 280*l.* The expense of Friends travelling on religious errands during 1867 had been 1,675*l.* 1*s.*, towards which New England had contributed 350*l.* The Irish Church was the subject of a conversation favourable to its disestablishment. Mr. John Bright, M.P., joined in a conversation on the subject of peace or war. Some of the speakers, he thought, had taken a too desponding view. The present agitated state of Europe arose solely from France. The French had not yet learnt that no nation has a right to seek supremacy by war.

NORTH BUCKS CONGREGATIONAL ASSOCIATION.—On Tuesday, June 2nd, the associated Congregational Churches of North Buckinghamshire held their jubilee services in the Congregational Church, Buckingham. In the morning a sermon was preached by the Rev. Robert Ferguson, LL.D., of London. In the afternoon a public meeting was held, presided over by the Rev. James Slye, of Potterspury, the secretary and also the senior minister of the association. The report for the past year was read, which, although it showed that greater and more numerous changes than usual had occurred during the year, was nevertheless of an encouraging character. The speakers at the meeting were, the Rev. Dr. Ferguson; the Revs. A. Shelley, of Aylesbury, C. Lancaster, of Newport Pagnell, W. Burgess, of Stony Stratford, T. Betts, of Brackley, and T. Lord, of Deddington; and Messrs. W. B. Bull, of Newport, T. B. Slye, Potterspury, and Joseph Stuchbery, of Bishopstow. A vote of thanks was passed to the Rev. Josiah Bull, the late chairman of the association and secretary of the Provident Fund, who has resigned his charge at Newport Pagnell, and removed out of the association, for his long and valued services in connection with the association. A resolution was proposed by the Rev. W. H. Dickenson, and adopted by the assembly, expressing approval of Mr. Gladstone's resolutions on the Irish Church, with thanks to the right hon. gentleman for his able services in the cause of religious right and liberty. In the evening Dr. Ferguson preached again.

THE DIOCESAN HOME MISSION.—The eleventh annual meeting of the London Diocesan Home Mission was held at Willis's Rooms on Tuesday. The Bishop of London presided, supported by the Bishop of Carlisle, Bishop of Argyll, Lord Lyttelton, Lord Charles Russell, the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, Archdeacon Hunter, the Rev. Dr. Miller, the Rev. W. Fremantle, the Rev. J. Bardsley, &c. The Rev. J. Bardsley having offered prayer, the Rev. W. Fremantle, hon. sec., presented an abstract of the report. The right rev. chairman, in his opening address, mentioned that after an experience of eleven years, he was more firmly con-

vinced than ever of the necessity of such a mission. When they first began it was on a small scale, and it was a long time before the work assumed any large proportions. But now a great deal had been done, and a great deal was being done, through the instrumentality of that home mission. He had just come from the office of the Bishop of London's Fund, and he had seen a map hanging on the wall with a number of green spots marked upon it. These green spots represented the missionary stations where the clergymen were at work, and it was very encouraging to see how large a space they occupied. They had been enabled to spread the network of what they were doing over a large space, and at the same to contract the sphere of work of each individual missionary; so that they had reason to believe that their work was spread over a large space and that the work was being done thoroughly. The Bishop paid a high tribute to the value of special services. These services had prepared the ground for permanent work. Of the work of the missionaries who were labouring in the various stations he also spoke in terms of high commendation, and closed with a tribute to the energy and devotedness of their secretary, the Rev. J. Bardsley. The adoption of the report was moved by Lord Charles Russell, and the Rev. J. Bardsley, the Bishop of Carlisle, the Rev. Dr. Miller, the Lord Mayor, and the Rev. W. Burgess, addressed the meeting.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—On Tuesday evening last a recognition service was held in Waterloo-road Baptist Chapel, in connection with the settlement of the Rev. J. B. Myers, the newly-appointed pastor at this place of worship. The proceedings commenced with a tea provided in the schoolroom, which had been very handsomely decorated for the occasion, and a very numerous company of members of the congregation and ministers of the town and neighbourhood were present. After tea the company adjourned to the chapel, which was filled. The opening devotional services were conducted by the Rev. W. H. Charlesworth, who offered up prayer. The Rev. W. Robinson (of Cambridge) then ascended the pulpit and delivered an address upon the principles of Nonconformity, in the course of which he referred to the fearful tendency in the Church of England, at the present day, towards infidelity on the one hand, and Ritualism or Romanism on the other. It was really awful to mark the extent to which the spirit of absolute unbelief is gaining ground in the land in which we live. Now they might very well pause to ask the question—From whence does this come? His answer was the Established Church. From whence came those famous "Essays and Reviews"? From members of the Establishment. Whence came the Colenso Essays? From a man who had been ordained first as a deacon, secondly as a priest, and lastly, as a bishop, and who, in his ordination vows, solemnly promised to conform to all that was contained in the Book of Common Prayer. There was none of this amongst Nonconformists—no outcry of this evil amongst the Methodists, nor amongst that other large section of Nonconformists, known as the Congregationalists or Independents; and why? Because the Nonconformists allowed to their ministers full freedom of thought and speech, so that their preaching and teaching were in accordance with the principles of Christianity as laid down in the Bible. And not only did this spirit of unbelief emanate from the Establishment, but it was chiefly prevalent within the limits of the Establishment. In all his long experience he only knew of three cases that had come to his knowledge in connection with this (the Baptist) community, and although they were induced to become converts to the Romish faith, they were not long before they acknowledged their error and returned to membership with the church and congregation they had once left. These were matters that deserved the earnest consideration and sincere prayers of all professing Christians, that God in His infinite wisdom might overrule these disputations to our good, and make us more united and zealous in seeking after the truth. Mr. W. M. Fuller next read a short statement of the causes which had led to the services of that evening. The Rev. J. Jenkyn Brown then put the usual interrogatories to the minister. The Rev. J. B. Myers—who is a young man of about twenty-three years of age—in reply, gave a long and detailed statement on the subject. Special prayer was next offered up by the Rev. T. G. Horton, and a very appropriate charge to the newly appointed pastor was delivered by the Rev. F. W. Gotch. The benediction was then pronounced, and the proceedings terminated.

The Liberal journals in the North of Ireland evidently fear the dreaded month of July will not pass over quietly. The *Northern Whig* complains that the Orangemen in the neighbourhood of Coleraine have begun to march about in the evenings, playing fifes and drums. In one instance a "lodge" carried an orange and purple flag.

A large number of our readers will be interested to know that the business heretofore carried on in Pater-noster-row by Messrs. Jackson, Walford, and Hodder, as publishers, booksellers, and exporters, will for the future be conducted by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton. Mr. M. H. Hodder has been identified, as partner and otherwise, with the establishment for nearly twenty-four years. Mr. T. W. Stoughton has had the advantage of being formerly engaged in the publishing house of Messrs. James Nisbet and Co., of Berners-street. This arrangement takes effect as from the 1st of January last.

Correspondence.

"THE COMING GENERAL ELECTION.—A WORD TO TEETOTALERS."

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—A writer styling himself a "Friend of Temperance," in your issue of the 10th inst., takes upon himself to instruct teetotalers with regard to their duty at the coming election. As a teetotaler of thirty years' standing, I, with your kind permission, have a word in reply. No one who knows me will suspect me of want of interest in religious liberty. I have been a member of the Liberation Society ever since its formation. The first lecture ever delivered on its behalf, in South Wales, was delivered in my chapel. And I am as firm a supporter of it now as I ever was. But when I see in the press, or hear from the platform, such words as the following in the letter alluded to above, I for one must utter my protest. "Minor differences, and subordinate issues"! And "Their own hobby"! Now let me tell this "Friend of Temperance" that a vast number of us total abstainers and Alliance men consider the temperance question of far greater importance than all other reforms put together. With these views we cannot "sink" our "minor"—for it is major with us—"differences." I expect the writer is not often on our platform, or it would not expect anything of the kind from us.

Let him point to an organisation possessing the influence of the "United Kingdom Alliance." Its income last year was above fourteen thousand pounds. What other society can bring together 700 men, earnest men, nearly all public men, to a public breakfast and spend three days in solemn consultation. Is it a minor subject to save a sum of a hundred millions a year, or rather turn this vast sum to legitimate trade, instead of throwing it away in a manner far worse than if cast into the fire. We seek to make hundreds of thousands of miserable homes happy by the suppression of the liquor traffic. If any Liberals or Tories expect us to put such gigantic points as these in abeyance, they will find that they have been greatly mistaken. Had I have been an elector at Bristol, I would have voted for Mr. Morley, but could not have combined in any united action to return him. He being a man of such extraordinary worth and loving disposition, I would vote for him, but after his remarks on the Alliance, I could not labour for his return. Temperance or principle before any man. We will "fight" "both publicans and clergy," and even friends of temperance, if they oppose us until we form a Parliament that will give the people a power to manage their own local matters. To be honest and out-spoken, we cannot understand a Liberal who will give a working man a vote to elect a member of Parliament to make laws for all the kingdom, and refuse him the power to veto a curse and a nuisance in his own locality. The "Friend of Temperance" is quite right in his estimate of the strength of teetotalers.

I believe Mr. Jacob Bright would have had no chance of being returned for Manchester had he not advanced on this question from what he was when rejected in the same city the time before. We cannot understand how the disendowment of the Irish Church can help the Permissive Bill, but we do understand how the settlement of the liquor traffic question would help to secure sober elections, and we clearly see that the masses of the people would then become so powerful as to be able to get all that they ought to have. We all admire Mr. Gladstone, but his wine sobriety was a great blunder, and hundreds of families have felt the ill effects of it. We have educated the people up to our mark in all the towns we have canvassed; I think I can say a majority of at least a thousand in our favour for every hundred against us. Our object now is to create a House of Commons—for in this, as well as in most reforms, the higher classes are behind. And we assert without fear, that candidates for Parliament must study our question, and in a short time will have to say yes to the question—"Will you vote for the Permissive Bill?"

Yours, &c.,
E. JACOBS.

Ebley, June 11, 1868.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—A "Friend of Temperance," in your last, is in a nervous hurry for the settlement of the Irish Church question; and, as might be expected in such a case, would have us, "to do a great right, do a little wrong." He says the supporters of the Permissive Bill can afford to wait. So can all who have truth on their side. But they cannot afford to treat the truth they believe as if it were error. This, it seems to me, is what he recommends to the supporters of the Permissive Bill to do, which I cannot admit to be either a little wrong or good policy. The publicans are not to be won by false pretences, and it might be that to leave them to an alliance with the clergy would be just the thing to upset the whole cargo of vested interests in injustice. But the clergy surely know better than to have them for allies.

Your correspondent would have the Irish Church be the sole question for the coming election. But this is impossible; for, if Liberals will not have the help of other questions, their opponents will. Let Liberals,

then, choose candidates at least Liberal enough to leave to popular control local questions not determined by the Imperial Legislature, one of which is that of licences to liquor-dealers.

As a practical illustration, I put the case of the division of the county in which I live, North-west Essex. I have consulted with several electors, and the impression is almost unanimous that we have small chance of returning a Liberal to the next Parliament, unless, in addition to his thoroughness on other questions, he could also enlist the tenant farmers, who are Radicals in this matter of local self-government, and I believe the strength of a Liberal candidate would be quite as much in the latter question as the former.

I am, &c.,

JAMES YOUNGMAN.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—I have just read in your issue of June 10th, a letter on "The Coming Election.—A Word to Teetotalers," signed by one calling himself "A Friend of Temperance"; which by no means implies that he is a friend of teetotalism. From the letter I gather that teetotalism and Permissive-Billism have become so strong in the country, that their action at the next election is exciting very considerable anxiety, especially in those who feel very strongly on the Irish Church question. I do not feel surprised at this; but whilst reading the letter, I began to wonder whether our "Friend of Temperance" would, or would not, fail to see how very important it is that these strong and very earnest teetotalers should be met by the Liberal party, and especially by that section of it, that are the most deeply anxious for the disestablishment of the Irish Church. I scarcely dared to hope that this teetotalers' adviser would appear in your next issue, with counsels to the Liberal party in general, as above suggested. If he were as shrewd as he is intelligent, he would do so; at all events, I beg leave to address an appeal through you, to the party in general, and our new counsellors in particular, on the subject.

It is credibly reported amongst us, that Mr. Morley lost his election at Bristol, not through the teetotalers pressing their views upon him, so much as his going out of the way to attack their principles embodied in the Permissive Bill. If the opponents of that bill think that its friends are going to be passive under such treatment as that, a serious mistake will be made. One of the most earnest sections of our national progressive movement is the teetotal section, which, strange to say, is oftentimes treated as if it had no earnestness at all. But we are in earnest, and in earnest now.

It would be well for our "Friend of Temperance" to study the evidence given before the committee now sitting on the Sunday Sale of Liquor Bill. Probably he will discover still greater cause to fear teetotal action at the next election. The vast majority of the new electors are deeply and personally interested in the drink question, and, probably, to a greater extent than in the Irish Church question. Multitudes of them have no religious interests at all. Their instincts would lead them to go in favour of the proposed action towards Ireland by the Liberal party, but they will regard their own interests in the liquor question as of at least equal importance. They will, it is not at all unlikely, at the next election make it the question of the hour. I should be sorry to see our religious section of the Liberal party coming to the conclusion that because of the large majorities obtained in favour of disestablishment, in the House of Commons, and large enthusiastic meetings held in the country in the same direction, therefore all the party in the country are equally interested as they are in that matter. There is a section, which may be called the irreligious section, and on national Liberal questions in Church and State they must not be forgotten. Those who compose it are more personally interested in the drink question than in the Church question. The only wise course that I can see for the party to take, is to gather up all these elements and mould them into a common programme.

The principle of the Permissive Bill being in the direction of popular power and majority rights, is essentially a Liberal principle, and, with the most perfect consistency, can be adopted by the party. The opposition to it is based upon an inconsistent squeamishness, before which we are determined not to bend. If the opposition rested upon a principle consistently held to by them and advocated, our position would be different. We only ask that the same principle shall be applied to the liquor traffic, that is now applied to gambling houses and immoral literature. The reasonableness of the proposal to form a common programme, embracing the liquor question, is seen, not only in the strength of the supporters of the latter, but also in the fact that from John Bright down to a "Friend of Temperance" the opinion is avowed that the time of the Permissive Bill will be greatly accelerated by the Reform Bill.

Our friend says "the supporters of the Permissive Bill can afford to wait." Opinions differ there. Without entering on that point, I would ask why should we wait? Surely our principle, being as essentially Liberal as the other, has equal claims for party adoption. There are at least as many people interested in the liquor question, if not more, and property to an equal amount. In view of the labours bestowed and the money spent to bring about the results we have attained, and also of the danger to our organisation from adopting the plan suggested—to wait—and of the essentially Liberal character of our principle, I cannot but feel that the proposal to wait is an impertinence, which our "Friend of Temperance" and his friends have gone out of their way and out of the way of true Liberalism, to give to us. In justice, we demand recognition by the party and not counsels to wait.

Our friend says, again, "that we cannot carry our

measure without the assistance of moderate men," who, while not holding their principle, view with alarm the growth of the public-house interests, &c., &c. From the general facts and tenor of the letter, I think we can very well turn round and say that, from your own admission, it is doubtful, very so, whether you can carry your Irish Church question without the teetotalers; at least, you fear it. We think you have grounds for your fears after the Bristol lesson. Why not come out with a manly proposal that we all row in one boat, and not with a childish one to wait?

On the question that we shall need the help of moderate men to carry our proposal, I may just say that, on that subject, we feel not the least anxiety. As for a compromise with our moderate friends, who do not hold our principle, we shall not think of that whilst we see the growing public-house interest driving them into our arms. The terrible dimensions of that interest will make them come and ask to be received into our boat before long. We can afford to wait here. There is really more ground for anxiety on the side of our friend than on the side of the teetotalers. For myself I feel the anxiety twofold. As ardent a sympathiser with the disestablishment of the Irish Church as any one can be, I am also an ardent sympathiser with the disestablishment of public-houses. I wish to help the former, but am restrained by the conduct of the Liberal party with reference to the latter.

Our friend says again that "we have to educate the new electors in our sentiments," &c., &c. He forgets that the same public-house interest that is educating himself has been educating them for many years past, and in a far more painful way in a vast number of instances. It is probable that the next election will reveal an amount of education on this question very far beyond the expectations of many.

One word of caution. Take care that the Tory party do not raise a cry on the liquor question. If they do, it will probably serve them, and damage the Liberals, infinitely more than the No Popery cry.

In conclusion, the only safe course that commends itself to my judgment, is for the Liberal party to take up both questions, and resolve to put them in a more satisfactory state. We will give up our plan if a better can be devised. Why should we lose our opportunity at the next election, and have our question put off for perhaps seven years. In the interests of both causes, I most sincerely urge the party to take them up and work them hand in hand, to the certain success of both.

I remain, Sir, yours, &c.,

A TEETOTAL DISESTABLISHER OF
THE IRISH CHURCH.

Birmingham, June 15, 1868.

ALLEGED INTOLERANCE OF LIBERATIONISTS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I never expected you would insert my letter, otherwise I would have taken a little more pains with its English. Having written far milder letters to some of your contemporaries on the same topic, and had them returned with a discourteous remark, I hardly expected you would notice it. I do not think I shall be able to pursue the subject, as I am leaving England for awhile. Allow me to thank you for the general courtesy and liberality with which you discuss Church questions. Let me tell you that I am by no means alone amongst the clergy in the desire for "freedom from State patronage and control," but it is chiefly the clergy who think with me who are most alienated from Nonconformists by the spirit and tone of these attacks upon the Church of England. "Church" papers are accustomed unhappily to treat "Dissenting" topics with neglect and unconcern; Churchmen rarely discuss with Dissenters either on first principles, or on matters of practice. Yet it is a rare thing for even the highest of Churchmen to descend to ridicule, misrepresentation, questioning of motives, and a determined intention to throw dirt upon those developments of Churchmanship in which, as members of a different denomination, they can have but little real concern. Whatever may have been the conduct of Churchmen in the past, it has been retaliated in a tenfold degree during recent years. At any rate there is a settled conviction in Churchmen's minds, and not the least in the minds of those who are most favourable to the objects of the "Liberation Society," that there is a general desire on the part of Dissent to humble, cripple, oppress and destroy the Church rather than to liberate it. The manner in which all Church questions are discussed on your side—the so-called "Pan-Anglican Synod" for instance, and the Episcopobia which it provoked—leaves upon us an impression that it is Episcopacy, rather than a State-connection, which is hated the most, and that many of your friends would have no objection to proceed to extremities in order to curb our freedom in that direction.

For myself, I desire that the separation of Church and State shall contribute to Christian union; as matters are now proceeding, I believe that the breach between "Church" and "Dissent" will be widened rather than bridged over by it. These are conclusions forced upon me by my perusal of Nonconformist literature, as well as by my private experience of Nonconformity. Its opposition to us is so petty, so mean, so underhand, often, that I turn from it with disgust and am driven often, in spite of myself, to question the boasted superiority of its piety over ours—who are generally looked upon as "unenlightened" Churchmen. My unhappy experience of Nonconformity, both in its public and private character, has almost led me to think that nothing pleases Dissenters better than abuses and shortcomings on our side. Many seem to gloat over them with a kind of fiendish malice, as if it were a Christian duty to "glory in unrighteousness." Witness in country parishes how readily Noneons repeat and circulate scandals against parsons. I have hardly ever known a parish in which Dissenters would let the character and habits of even the most unoffending, saintly and innocent

clergyman alone—even in places where, from the absence of endowment the Church could not have been a grievance to any one. And, hence, holding many sentiments in common with Dissenters, I could not work with them, for I cannot sufficiently trust them.

Faithfully yours,
A LONDON CLERGYMAN.

[We cannot but think that "A London Clergyman" must have had peculiar experience, which enormously magnifies the evil he deprecates, without denying that in some places there may be ground for his grave charges against Dissenters. We believe that, in the main, they are greatly exaggerated, and that much of the soreness of feeling which the Established clergy exhibit in many localities arises more from the spiritual activity than the animosity of their Nonconformist neighbours. Even in respect to Ritualism, the open opposition of Dissenters is less bitter than that of the Evangelical Church party. At all events, the mass of Dissenters claim equal freedom for all; but when any religious body enjoys exclusive state favour, and under cover of it is able to indulge in such extremes of doctrine and ceremonial as are seen in the Church of England, it is not surprising that they, as nominal members of the National Church, should feel perfectly free to criticise and condemn. We entertain no doubt ourselves that the separation of Church and State will contribute to Christian union—for thorough union is only possible where there is genuine equality.—*Ed. Noncon.*]

Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

On Thursday evening a short technical discussion arose in committee on the Army Chaplains Bill, as to its various clauses and the jurisdiction under which the army chaplains would have to exercise their functions. Eventually, on the motion of Lord REDSDALE, all the amendments were ordered to be printed, that the House might better understand all the complex issues raised. Their Lordships then adjourned.

RAILWAY AMALGAMATION.

On Friday night the Marquis of CLANRICARDE gave expression to the strong feelings of discontent with which the inhabitants on the south side of the Thames regard the provisions of the Great Southern Railway Bill. He pointed out how the measure, though nominally a private one, was calculated seriously to affect the public interests by placing a monopoly in the hands of the three great corporations which supply railway accommodation to the south-eastern districts of England. His lordship warned the House that if they sanctioned this bill, the companies would virtually charge what they pleased, and where the fares were not raised the passengers would be compelled to travel by the slowest trains and at the most inconvenient times. The Duke of RICHMOND, speaking for the Government, gave his assent to the second reading, as he approved the principle of amalgamation. At the same time, he suggested the introduction of a clause which should give Parliament the power to revise the provisions of the bill at the end of ten years. Lord REDSDALE, while favourable to the principle of amalgamation, objected that the scheme before the House was one totally different from any which had hitherto been recognised by Parliament. In particular, that feature of the measure which gave the companies the power of an unlimited charge had never been sanctioned by the Legislature. The bill was read a second time and referred to a select committee.

The Army Chaplains Bill passed through committee *pro forma*, and their Lordships adjourned at twenty-five minutes past seven o'clock.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

On Monday evening the question of the public schools was revived by Lord STANHOPE. His argument was that too much time was wasted on classical studies, especially Greek and Latin versification, to the neglect of mathematics, the applied sciences, and modern languages. He suggested that there should be a permanent committee of able men connected with the great public schools and universities to inquire into what constituted a good education, and to recommend or enforce it on the several bodies they represented. Lord CLARENDON owned that any education confined to Latin and Greek must necessarily be narrow and imperfect, but these languages formed the basis of a liberal education, and there was no reason why they could not be taught in conjunction with other studies. Lord LYTTLTON thought the universities should take the initiative by rewarding the study of physical science and modern languages with emoluments as well as honours.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND THE FRANCHISE.

On Wednesday there was a very thin attendance. The first bill on the paper was introduced to relieve revenue officers from the disabilities to which they are subjected by being excluded from voting for candidates at elections. Mr. MONK had charge of the bill, and before the second reading expressed his astonishment at the absence of Ministers, and his regret that they were not present to hear his arguments in support of the measure. The members

present, however, as it happened, fared no better than the absent Ministers, because the motion for the second reading was put by the SPEAKER, agreed to without dissent, and declared therefore to be carried, whereby the hon. gentleman was relieved from the trouble of supporting his case by argument.

THE PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

The second reading of the Married Women's Property Bill was moved by Mr. LEFEVRE. The object is to extend to the personal property of married women the protection which can now be accorded to their real property, and to confer on married women the power of exercising as absolute a control over their personal possessions as they can now exercise over real property. Mr. LOPES moved that the second reading be deferred for six months, and proceeded to argue in support of his refusal to extend the rights of women. Some murmurs from the Ladies' Gallery, with a strong dash of mockery in the tones, indicated that some of the listening fair sex disapproved of the speech, and treated it rather scornfully. Mr. KARSLAKE seconded the amendment, and declared that the measure was most revolutionary—would effect a total revolution of the status of husband and wife, and effect a like revolution of the rights of property. During the delivery of Mr. Karslake's address the First Minister made his appearance and took his seat on the Treasury Bench, where he remained only for a brief time, and retired before Mr. Karslake's speech was concluded. A discussion ensued, in which Mr. Headlam, Mr. Goldney, Mr. Pollard-Urquhart, and Mr. Melly took part, as did also Mr. JACOB BRIGHT (who supported the bill in an able speech) and Mr. LOWE, who gave the measure also a very effective support. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL was not prepared to accept the change in the law proposed. Mr. MILL supported the bill. On a division the SPEAKER announced the numbers to be—for second reading, 123; against, 123. In accordance with the usual rule the right hon. gentleman gave his vote with the Ayes, and the motion for second reading was accordingly carried by a majority of 1; and then the bill was referred to a select committee. The announcement of the Speaker's intention to vote for the second reading evoked a most enthusiastic expression of approval in the Ladies' Gallery.

BURIALS (IRELAND) BILL.

Mr. MONSELL having moved that the Speaker leave the chair, in order that the House might go into committee on this bill,

The Earl of MAYO expressed a hope that the right hon. gentleman would not press the measure any further this session. When it was before the House last year, he had stated that he was favourable to its principle, but seeing that the grievances which it was proposed to remedy were not very serious, and that discussions would in all probability next session occur involving the very existence of the Church in Ireland, he thought it was desirable that the change which the right hon. gentleman sought to make, which was one of some importance, should be postponed until the Parliament had decided on that great question. By the Act known as Lord Plunket's Act permission was given to persons of all creeds to bury their dead in the burial-grounds to which the bill related, and it was further provided that in case any incumbent should refuse to allow such interments, he should be obliged to state in writing to those who made application for permission his reasons for that refusal as well as to transmit a copy of those reasons to the bishop of the diocese, so that the refusal could not be a matter of course, but must be based on sufficient grounds. Some hardships had, no doubt, arisen under the operation of the present law, and he by no means wished to defend the conduct of the incumbents in those cases; but, on the whole, the causes of complaint were very few, and under the circumstances to which he had referred he trusted his right hon. friend would see the expediency of acceding to the appeal which he made to him for the postponement of the bill.

Mr. MONSELL regretted that he could not comply with the request of the noble lord. In moving the second reading of the bill he had mentioned a considerable number of cases in which great hardship had been inflicted by the existing law, and it would be a great disappointment to the people of Ireland if immediate steps were not taken to provide against the continuance of the grievance of which they complained, and which the bill proposed to remove.

Mr. NEWDEGATE had heard no proof of the existence of any very serious hardship under the operation of the existing law adduced by those who supported the measure.

Mr. SYNAN remarked that it was not so much the Roman Catholics as the Dissenters in Ireland who were anxious that the bill should pass.

Sir G. BOWYER said he could not see why the progress of the bill should be at all affected by the question whether the Irish Church was or was not to be disestablished. In the former event the Churches would, in accordance with the plan of the right hon. member for South Lancashire, still remain in the hands of the Protestant clergy, and there would in that case be the same need for such legislation as his right hon. friend the member for Limerick proposed as now.

The House then went into committee on the bill.

On Clause 1, enacting that where burials of persons not belonging to the United Church of England and Ireland occur in burial-grounds of such Church, a priest, &c., of other denomination may perform the

service, Mr. VANCE proposed the following proviso at the end of the clause:—

Provided always that notice in writing of the day and hour at which such burial service is intended to take place shall have been given by such priest or clergyman of such religious denomination one day at least before such burial service to the officiating minister of such church or chapel, or shall have been left at his place of abode.

Some discussion ensued on this proposal, which was supported on the ground that notice was requisite in order to enable arrangements to be made to prevent collisions and riotous proceedings at burial-grounds. On the other hand the proviso was described as perfectly unnecessary, as under the existing law burials, for which no notice was required, occurred without disturbances. It was also urged that in case of death by cholera or other malignant disorder, a day's notice would be impossible should the corpse be ordered by the local authorities to be buried immediately. The proviso was rejected by 122 votes to 91. The clause as amended was ordered to stand part of the bill.

The other clauses were agreed to.

Mr. LEFROY moved a clause to prevent any one but the sexton, or other person duly authorised by the incumbent, to enter the churchyard for the purpose of opening or making any grave therein. Mr. MONSELL opposed the clause.

The Committee divided, and the clause was rejected by 123 to 73 votes.

Mr. COLE moved the insertion of the following clause:—

Nothing herein contained shall authorise the burial of any person not belonging to the United Church of England and Ireland in any churchyard or graveyard where heretofore no such burial has ever taken place, and when there exists within the parish another churchyard, graveyard, or burial ground in which persons not belonging to the United Church of England and Ireland can be buried under the provisions of this Act.

Mr. MONSELL had no objection to the clause, which was agreed to and added to the bill.

Sir H. BRUCE moved the following clause:—

That it shall not be lawful for any priest or minister authorised by this Act to perform the burial service, to use any ceremonies, or perform any acts other than read or say the burial service, which it would not be lawful for a minister of the Established Church to use or perform.

Mr. MONSELL hoped the clause would be withdrawn, promising that words to have a similar effect would be introduced.

It being now a quarter to six o'clock, the House resumed.

The report of amendments on the Established Church (Ireland) Bill was postponed till Friday, and the adjourned debate on the Electric Telegraphs Bill was postponed.

The House adjourned at six o'clock.

On Thursday, in answer to Sir R. Collier, Mr. ADDERLEY said it was true, as would appear from the additional Victoria papers which had been ordered to be laid on the table, that Sir C. Darling had expressed his wish to withdraw the letter announcing his retirement from the public service.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in reply to an inquiry, said that the Government have no intention to propose any vote to defray the cost of a Foreign Cattle Market, which he anticipates will be self-supporting.

THE REGISTRATION AND DISSOLUTION.

Mr. HARDY fulfilled the pledge given by the Government to expedite the dissolution by bringing in a bill to amend the Law of Registration so far as relates to the year 1868. Describing rapidly the various stages of registration up to the time of completing the lists at the beginning of September, he stated that the Government had decided that none of these preliminary processes of making claims, objections, and the like could be advantageously or safely abbreviated. Until the Scotch Bill (which disfranchises seven English boroughs) and the Boundary Bill were passed, large numbers of electors would not know whether they were borough or county, and the lodger claims also, he pointed out, could not be made until a late period. The process of shortening, therefore, would be limited to the revision, and the bill proposed that both for towns and counties the revision should commence in September. Three weeks would be allowed for it, and the Vacation Judge in chambers would be empowered to supply additional revising barristers as they might be required, to the amount of one-third more than the present number. To obviate the delay which might happen from the necessity of numbering the lists from one end to the other, it was proposed that they should be numbered by parishes or polling districts, so that the printing might go on simultaneously, and might be finished within two or three days after the revision—about the last day of October. He also proposed that the interval between the proclamation and the return of the writs should be shortened from thirty-five to twenty-eight days; and Mr. Hardy provoked murmurs from the back benches on both sides, which grew into a general laugh, when he told the House that the result would be to get the new Parliament together by the 8th or 9th of December. Apparently mistaking the purport of these manifestations, he went on to argue in an apologetic tone that it would not be just to the new classes of electors further to shorten the periods of registration. And what was it the House required? To come to a decision whether certain principles were to prevail in the Government of the country; and by the ar-

rangement he proposed this decision could be taken in time for members to get home again by Christmas. He pleaded, too, that the Ministry—whoever they might be—ought to have an interval of six or seven weeks to prepare their measures for the actual session. To the objection that no time would be allowed for the registration appeals, he replied that even when a vote was appealed against the name was placed on the list and the vote was valid at the election. The bill, he mentioned, would be read a second time as soon as possible, and referred to a select committee.

Mr. GLADSTONE acknowledged that the plan had been conceived with an earnest desire not unduly to contract the preliminary stages of registration (which would be dangerous) and to secure an early dissolution. He agreed, too, that to select the stages of revision for the shortening process was wise, and he promised to assist in facilitating the progress of the bill.

After Mr. BOUVERIE had expressed some doubts whether the writs could be returned from Shetland in twenty-eight days, Lord MAYO stated, in reply to Mr. C. Fortescue, that a separate bill would be brought in for Ireland.

THE BOUNDARY BILL.

In committee upon the Boundary Bill, Mr. HIBBERT moved the omission of the fourth clause, in order to substitute another, the effect of which was to carry into effect all the recommendations of the select committee, and consequently to set aside such proposals of the commissioners as conflicted with any of them. Thereon ensued a sharp, and at intervals rather acrimonious, debate; and the battle of the rival reports was fought with spirit until near the dinner-hour. Mr. ADDERLEY made an acrimonious attack upon Mr. Bright. To this Mr. BRIGHT replied by a contemptuous denial of most of the Under-Secretary's assertions, and a dignified vindication of the course which he had pursued with reference to the boundary question. He alluded to a report which had reached his ears that if Birmingham was sacrificed there would be no further opposition to the amendment of the hon. member for Oldham, and refused to suspect hon. gentlemen opposite of being ready to gratify personal hostility to himself at the expense of his constituents. The proposals of the commissioners were ably vindicated by Mr. R. GURNEY, in an animated and comprehensive speech. Referring especially to the recommended additions to the large towns, such as Birmingham, Liverpool, &c., the learned Recorder stated that the object of the commissioners had been to provide that the members who were sent to Parliament from those places should represent the whole towns, and not only certain parts of them. They had not felt it necessary to sacrifice that object, either to a supposed necessity for making the boundaries of municipal and Parliamentary boroughs continuous, or to the objections of the inhabitants of the districts to be included, which were founded upon a fear—in many cases unfounded—but they would speedily be subjected to municipal taxation. Mr. BRUCE showed, by reference to the population returns, that the members for Manchester and Birmingham were really at present the representatives of those towns, and commented with severity upon the additions to the boroughs of Lambeth and Marylebone recommended by the commissioners. After Mr. NEWDEGATE had been permitted to quote an old Post-office directory, in order to show that the boundaries of the borough of Birmingham ought to be extended, Mr. B. OSBORNE commenced a fierce attack upon the commission, and successfully vindicated himself against any responsibility for the "falsome praise and butter" with which he asserted that it had been bespattered. The hon. gentleman interspersed his serious remarks by references to "perverts, the Puseyites of politics," and jocular allusions to one or two members of the House. A sarcasm directed against the borough of East Retford brought up Lord GALWAY, who angrily declared that he had no desire to have a buffoon associated with him in the representation of that place. This uncomplimentary expression was greeted with a storm of "Oh's" and cries of "Order," amid which might be heard the voice of the hon. member for Nottingham good-naturedly observing that the noble lord was quite in order. Mr. A. PEEL and Mr. H. LEWIS addressed the House amid cries of "Divide" so loud as almost to drown their voices, and then the division took place. 184 members voted with Mr. Hibbert, and only 148 against him. The amendment was therefore carried by 36. Some time was spent in settling the details of the schedules; but with the exception of a scolding, intended to be severe, administered by Mr. POWELL to the gentlemen who beat him in a division, nothing occurred to break the dull monotony which is inseparable from proceedings where only questions of detail are involved. After the bill had passed through committee, Mr. DISRAELI gave notice that, upon the report, he would bring up a clause relating to compound householders.

THE SCOTCH REFORM BILL.

Some time was afterwards devoted to giving the finishing touches to the details of the Scotch Reform Bill. A number of verbal amendments were made, but none of any great moment, though at one time the much-vexed question of the Glasgow Boundaries seemed likely to give rise to a stormy scene between the Lord Advocate and the Scotch Liberal members. Mr. NEATE renewed the controversy as to the claims of Sutherlandshire to a whole seat, and actually moved the suspension of the representation during

the pleasure of Parliament, but did not persevere to a division.

The Thames Embankment and Metropolis Improvement (Loans) Act Improvement bill passed through Committee.

Some other bills were forwarded a stage; and the House adjourned at twenty minutes past twelve o'clock.

EX-GOVERNOR EYRE.

On Friday Mr. DISRAELI, answering Colonel R. Knox, who inquired into the views of the Government on the effect of the Jamaica Act of Indemnity, said, that as the highest legal authorities differed, he would not presume to say whether it operated as a complete protection to Governor Eyre, but he certainly had no intention to bring in a bill to protect him from further prosecution. Mr. Disraeli raised a laugh by drily remarking, in answer to a further question, that by the "highest legal authorities" he didn't only allude to the law officers of the late Government.

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY CHARTER.

The Earl of MAYO, in reply to Sir J. Gray, gave some explanation of the recent communications between the Government and the Irish Roman Catholic prelates relative to the Catholic University. The gist of it was that the Government took the last letter of Dr. Leahy and Dr. Derry (published in the Parliamentary papers) as a final refusal of their offer, and they would therefore take no further steps in the matter.

THE BOARD OF INLAND REVENUE AND NEWSPAPERS.

A number of questions of no great importance having been discussed,

Mr. AYTON, in an elaborate address, introduced to the House the subject of the legal proceedings which have been commenced by the Board of Inland Revenue, to compel the registration of, and giving security for, certain publications alleged to be newspapers, and commented upon the uncertainty, irregularity, and caprice with which such proceedings were instituted. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL defended the conduct of the officers of the Inland Revenue Department, and maintained that as long as the law remained as it was they were bound to institute these proceedings, to settle whether the publications in question were or were not newspapers. Mr. M. GIBSON, while admitting that the evil which was complained of arose rather from the law itself—a law which could not be impartially enforced—than from the action of the Board of Inland Revenue, recommended the repeal of the two Acts of Parliament under which these proceedings were taken; and Mr. MILL added the suggestion, that in the meantime all prosecutions should be suspended. Mr. M. CHAMBERS spoke strongly in defence of the statutes now in force, and the debate closed with a vehement denunciation of the law and its administration by Mr. CRAUFURD.

THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.

The debates on Mr. Gladstone's Suspensory Bill, which stood next on the stage "as amended to be considered," were varied by a dispute about the order in which it was to be taken. Mr. CRAUFURD and Mr. MONK complained that it had been interpolated in the middle of the Government business unfairly and to the disadvantage of bills of theirs. It was explained by the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY that priority had been given to this bill out of courtesy to Mr. Gladstone and for the general convenience, and Mr. GLADSTONE confirmed this, thanking the Government for having given him the same advantage as on previous occasions.

Mr. VANCE made an attempt to strike out of the new clause added on the preceding Friday the part which puts the recipients of the *Regium Donum* under Parliamentary notice; but meeting with no support except from Mr. NEWDEGATE, he did not go to a division, and the third reading was fixed for Tuesday.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND THE FRANCHISE.

Just before one o'clock Mr. MONK moved the commitment of his bill to remove the Disabilities of Revenue Officers, of which he secured the second reading on Wednesday in the absence of the two front benches. The Government moved the adjournment of the debate, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER explaining that he was accidentally prevented from arriving in the House in time on Wednesday, and complaining that Mr. Monk had departed from the usual course by not making a speech on the second reading, which would have given ample opportunity for the opponents of the bill to take their places. He added, too, that many members (including Mr. Disraeli and Mr. Gladstone) had gone away some time ago under the impression that the bill would not come on that night. There was the usual sharp and disappointed struggle on the question of adjournment. The first motion was beaten by 52 to 36, a second was negatived without a division, and a third by 42 to 33. The supporters of the bill made a strong appeal to the members of the Government who were present to fix a day for the bill, but they professed their inability in the Premier's absence, and after a contest of an hour Mr. Monk gave way, and consented to the adjournment of the debate until Monday.

The House adjourned at two o'clock.

PUBLIC BUSINESS.

On Monday evening there was some talk as to the arrangement of public business. Tuesdays are to be surrendered to the Government as well as Mondays and Thursdays; and the plan of holding the morning sittings from two o'clock till seven, which worked so well last year, is revived. The Public Schools Bill was fixed for the morning sitting yesterday; the Electric Telegraphs Bill and the Foreign Cattle Market Bill for Thursday; and Mr. Monk's bill for removing the Disabilities of Revenue Officers on Friday, after the notices on Supply.

THE IRISH REFORM BILL.

Before the House went into committee on the Irish Reform Bill, Mr. SANDFORD urged the Government to withdraw the redistribution part of the bill. Mr. HENLEY supported the recommendation on the ground that there was no time this session to do justice to the questions involved. Sir F. HAYGATE, Sir H. BRUCE, on the same side of the House, and Mr. Pim, Mr. Bagwell, and Mr. C. Fortescue on the Liberal benches, expressed a similar view. Mr. GREGORY stood alone in desiring that the House should complete the Irish Bill by including redistribution as well as the franchise. Mr. DISRAELI promised the careful and respectful consideration of the Government to the advice which had been tendered, and subsequently in committee moved the adjournment of the clauses in question. The committee passed Clause 3, fixing the borough franchise at the rateable annual value of "more than 4 $\frac{1}{2}$," an amendment by Mr. LAWSON to make it 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ being rejected by 188 to 177. Clause 13, providing for a revision of boundaries, was negatived on the understanding that a clause should be substituted for it (suggested by Mr. LAWSON), making a general arrangement that, where the municipal exceed the Parliamentary boundaries, the two shall be coextensive. Clause 18, which prohibits payments for conveying voters to the poll in boroughs, was, after some debate, confined in its application to Carrickfergus, Cork, Limerick, and Galway. The bill will have precedence on Thursday.

Various suggestions were made in reference to the Registration Bill, which was read a second time, and Mr. Hardy promised that they should be considered by the select committee, which will be empowered to take evidence.

Foreign and Colonial.

FRANCE.

The Emperor has gone to Fontainebleau, and before his departure gave audience to the principal ambassadors from European Powers. His Majesty has already signified his assent to the proposal of Russia, tending to prohibit the use of explosive missiles by armies in time of war.

Prince Napoleon, having postponed his journey to Constantinople, will return immediately to Paris. He has been making a long stay at Vienna. His return is probably due to the critical state of affairs that has arisen in Serbia. In one of the Hungarian newspapers General Klapka hailed Prince Napoleon's arrival, as the harbinger of an alliance between France, Prussia, Austria, and Hungary against Muscovite tendencies.

The Legislative Body have unanimously adopted the bill for the construction of parochial roads.

It appears that armed bands of peasants are traversing some of the cantons of the Charante and the Gironde departments. They attack churches and priests to the cry of "Vive l'Empereur." The Catholic journals ask what it means.

GERMANY.

The King will visit Worms on the 25th inst., to be present at the inauguration of the monument erected in that city to the memory of Martin Luther.

The Federal Council has adopted a resolution requesting the Chancellor of the Confederation to negotiate treaties with Foreign Powers for rendering private property at sea inviolable in time of war.

The North German Parliament has adopted a bill for the institution of a new system of weights and measures. The bill provides for the introduction of the decimal system, and the metre as a basis of measure.

SERBIA.

ASSASSINATION OF PRINCE MICHAEL.

About five o'clock last Wednesday evening, the reigning Prince Michael, while walking in the promenade of the Topohideré Park, Belgrade, was attacked by three individuals, and shot down with revolvers. A Vienna letter in the *Patrie* favours the supposition that the assassination was due to a political cause. This was shown by the assassins killing Madame Anka as well as the Prince, and thus cutting off the two heads of Serbia—for, says the writer, Madame Anka was the real sovereign. The same letter gives some details of the murder. The three assassins pounced on the Prince, Madame Anka, and her daughter, as they approached the turn of a dense thicket in the pleasure-grounds adjoining the villa of Topohideré, in which they were taking a walk. Two of them attacked the Prince; the third fired at the ladies; their bullets struck five persons in all. When they retreated it was found that one shot had gone through the Prince's neck, and another had shattered his skull. He was quite dead. Madame Anka lived long enough to be able to give the names of the murderers, and died on Wednesday night. The assassins of Prince Michael are in custody, and

have already been subjected to examination. They are said to be a father and two sons.

No political convulsion has followed the assassination of Prince Michael. The Ministry, constituting themselves into a Provisional Government, have named as successor the young Prince Milan Obrenovitch, whom Michael had himself designated as his heir. The announcement appears to have been accepted with satisfaction by the army, by the municipality and the population of Belgrade, and by the public opinion of the country generally, so far as it could yet be ascertained. The National Assembly of Serbia is to be called together to ratify the election of the new Prince, if they approve of it, and to carry on the regular business of the country. The youth designated as Prince of Serbia is but some twelve or fourteen years of age, and has been, it is stated, for some time back pursuing his studies in Paris. Of course a boy so young must be a ruler only in name, and rumour states that the late Minister Garaschanin is to be entrusted with the tutelage of the young Prince.

It is now said that the assassination was the result of a conspiracy in favour of the Kara George dynasty, at the head of which conspiracy is the dethroned representative of the House of Kara George. It is thought probable that the Provisional Government will demand his extradition by Austria.

The funeral of Prince Michael of Serbia took place on Monday, in the presence of the Princess Julie, the foreign ambassadors, and a large assembly of spectators. The most perfect order prevailed.

AMERICA.

Senator Reverdy Johnson, of Maryland, has been appointed United States Minister to England. The nomination has been confirmed by the Senate without the customary reference to the committee. Mr. Reverdy Johnson is a Conservative Democrat of high standing and character. The appointment has given general satisfaction.

On the 10th the United States Senate passed the bill admitting the two Carolinas, Louisiana, Georgia, and Alabama to representation in Congress in accordance with the terms of the bill previously passed by the House of Representatives.

It is reported, on the authority of the *New York Herald*, that the Fenians are threatening an attack upon Canada, and that the volunteers have had orders to hold themselves in readiness, their pay to be doubled.

The death is announced of Mr. James Buchanan, who was elected President of the United States in 1856, and who previously occupied the post of American Minister in this country. Mr. Buchanan's political importance did not survive his Presidency.

The candidates selected by the Chicago Convention have each written a letter accepting the nomination. General Grant declines to pledge himself to any policy, excepting the broad constitutional policy that it is the duty of the ruler to obey in all things the will of the people, and he concludes his letter with the words, "Let us have peace." Mr. Colfax writes much in the same strain, but employs a good many more words to say what he means. The Democrats still remain very quiet. The *New York Times* thinks they will be compelled to take Chief Justice Chase, but does not believe that he will carry the party. A meeting of the friends of Mr. Charles Francis Adams, desirous of having him placed in nomination for the Vice-Presidency of the United States by the National Democratic Convention, was held in New York on the 23rd ult. The meeting, which was fairly attended, was addressed by several gentlemen, who were most enthusiastic in their laudations of the ex-Minister to St. James', deeming him the best candidate that could be named.

The Democrats have carried Oregon, electing a member of Congress and the majority of the Legislature.

Mr. Davis's trial is postponed until October, and his bail has been renewed.

The Senate have passed a vote of thanks by 37 to 11 to Mr. Stanton for his public services, and by 80 to 11 have refused to vote the thanks of the house to Chief Justice Chase for his conduct during the impeachment trial.

AUSTRALIA.

A telegram has been received from Melbourne, dated May 24, to this effect:—A new Ministry has been formed, and four of its members have been re-elected. The remaining elections are proceeding. The triennial elections in South Australia have terminated. The shipments of gold to England since the departure of the last mail amount to 164,125 oz.

The Duke of Edinburgh laid the foundation-stone of a new town hall at Sydney on the 4th of April, and sailed for Europe direct on the 6th. The Prince requested that O'Farrell's case should be referred home; but the Executive would not consent. The Australian papers contain long accounts of O'Farrell's trial and execution for the attempted assassination of the Duke of Edinburgh. The prisoner appears to have met his fate with courage. He left behind him a letter, in which he expresses extreme grief for what he had done, and denies that his crime was instigated by any organisation whatever. There was not a single human being in existence, he says, who had the slightest knowledge of his project. His statement that there was a Fenian organisation in New South Wales had no foundation, except, perhaps, mere hearsay. O'Farrell

states that he was so certain the assassination would succeed that he sent an account of it and an address to the Irish people to the proprietors of two Irish papers. "From brooding over the wrongs of Ireland, I became," he says, in conclusion, "excited, and filled with enthusiasm on the subject, and it was when under the influence of those feelings that I attempted to perpetrate the deed for which I am now justly called upon to suffer."

Enthusiastic loyalist meetings have been held in New Zealand.

Just before his departure from Sydney the Duke of Edinburgh was entertained at luncheon at Government House, a number of the leading gentlemen of the colony being invited to meet him. In reply to the toast of his health, which was proposed by the Earl of Belmore, his Royal Highness, who was so much affected as to be unable to speak for several seconds, said (as soon as the cheering had subsided):—

Gentlemen, I have no doubt you will allow me to read the few words that I desire to say to you, as I do not feel equal to the task of speaking extempore. (Encouraging cheers.) In returning you my best thanks for drinking my health, I must express my regret at having to bid you farewell, and I take this opportunity of thanking you for the enthusiastic and hospitable manner in which I have been received and entertained in this as well as all the Australian colonies. The universal manifestations of loyalty to the Queen and attachment to her person and throne have ere this been made known to her Majesty, and cannot fail to have given her the liveliest pleasure. (Applause.) I must now, however, allude to the unfortunate occurrence connected with myself, which marred your festivities, and cast a temporary gloom over the community. I sincerely regret, on your part, that there should have occurred any one incident, during my sojourn amongst you, which should have detracted from the general satisfaction which I believe my visit to Australia has given. (Loud and prolonged cheering.) The event, however, cannot in any degree shake my conviction of the loyalty of the colonists at large—(applause)—nor her Majesty's confidence in her Australian subjects. Indeed, the meetings and expressions of sentiment which have been called forth by the recent attempt on my life will show their fellow-subjects at home, and the world at large, that they not only have loyalty, but affection for their Queen and her family. (Cheers.) If there is any disaffection tending to disloyalty amongst any community in any section of this portion of her Majesty's dominions, it will be the duty of the Government to put it down, and I am certain that here it will receive every support from all classes. (Prolonged cheering.) Through the merciful interposition of Providence, the injury I received was but slight, and I believe no further evil consequences are to be anticipated from the wound. (Loud cheers.) It has, however, been considered that I shall be unequal to any great exertion for some time, and therefore it has been decided that it would be most advisable for me to return home direct. It is a great disappointment for me not to be able to visit New Zealand, and I am afraid it will also very much disappoint the people there. In thanking you once more for your kindness to me during my visit, I must tell you how much I have enjoyed it, and regret that it comes to an end to-day. Before I conclude, I will ask you to join me in a toast. I propose, "Prosperity to the colony of New South Wales"; and as this is the last opportunity I shall have of addressing an assembly of Australians, I beg to couple with it the toast, "Prosperity to all the Australian colonies."

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Austrian Society for the relief of soldiers wounded in time of war has appointed the Queen of Prussia an honorary member, and her Majesty has accepted the nomination.

The Mont Cenis Railway, on the Fell system, one of the most important undertakings of recent times, was opened to the public yesterday. The trains, it is stated, were worked with entire success.

The American Congress has taken a step which will secure the adoption by the United States of the international system of coinage which is already in force over a large portion of the European Continent.

We learn from Canada that several members of the Canadian Parliament have prepared for circulation throughout the dominion a petition to the House of Commons asking for the opening of navigation from Lake Huron, through French River, Lake Nipissingue, the Matawan, and the Ottawa, to the St. Lawrence.

THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.—On the 11th her Majesty's troopship *Serapis* sailed from Alexandria for England, with troops belonging to the Abyssinian expedition. Captain Roberts, of the 4th King's Own, who was seriously wounded before Magdala, and was since reported dead, accompanies the troops.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

(From the *Observer*.)

Now that a general election is certain, and at no distant time, it may not be amiss to consider the probable result upon the state of parties in the next House of Commons. In our present summary we do not mean to touch all or any of the old constituencies that are allowed to remain untouched. We shall confine ourselves to the changes made by the several Reform Bills, which will be found upon investigation to be more numerous and important than is generally supposed.

In the first place, there are the five seats gone by the disfranchisement of Totnes, Lancaster, and Reigate, all in the hands of the Liberals, who thereby lost five votes.

Secondly, the English Reform Bill took forty-eight seats from forty-eight boroughs, which formerly sent

two members to Parliament, and will in future send only one each.

Thirdly, there are seven more seats given up to provide the increase accorded to the Scotch representation.

These make sixty seats in all that will disappear from the New House of Commons. We will proceed to see how many of these were held by either side of the House. In doing this, we shall omit those places where the members were one and one, such as Wells, Honiton, &c., and where one party loses as much as the other. We shall then go over summarily the newly-enfranchised places as well as we can collect the probable results.

TORY LOSSES.	
Great Marlow .. 1	Yarmouth .. 1
Dartmouth .. 1	Bridgnorth .. 1
Lyme Regis .. 1	Ludlow .. 1
Maldon .. 1	Lichfield .. 1
Harwich .. 1	Chippenham .. 1
Cirencester .. 1	Devizes .. 1
Tewkesbury .. 1	Marlborough .. 1
Leominster .. 1	Knaresborough .. 1
Huntingdon .. 1	Cockermouth .. 1
Stamford .. 1	
Thetford .. 2	Total .. 17

LIBERAL LOSSES.	
Windsor .. 1	Reigate .. 1
Wycombe .. 1	Arundel .. 1
Bodmin .. 1	Lewes .. 1
Totnes .. 2	Malton .. 1
Ashburton .. 1	Ripon .. 1
Tavistock .. 1	Richmond .. 1
Bridport .. 1	
Poole .. 1	Total .. 17
Lancaster .. 2	

These are the results of actual disfranchisement, and give a gain of four to the Liberals upon a balance, even after including the five seats lost at Lancaster, Totnes, and Reigate in 1866.

We now come to the enfranchisement. Although we cannot speak here with the same certainty, it is here that the Liberals show the greatest gain, and the Tories the smallest chances, after including the minority members, upon which they so much rely to diminish the force of their probable defeat.

TORY GAINS.	
London .. 1	Middlesborough .. 1
Manchester .. 1	Lincolnshire .. 2
Birmingham .. 1	
Leeds .. 1	Total .. 7

LIBERAL GAINS.	
Derbyshire .. 2	Chelsea .. 2
Devonshire .. 2	Hackney .. 2
Darlington .. 1	Norfolk .. 2
Hartlepool .. 1	Staffordshire .. 2
Stockton .. 1	Surrey .. 2
Essex .. 2	Yorkshire .. 2
Gravesend .. 1	Wednesbury .. 1
Liverpool .. 1	Dewsbury .. 1
Burnley .. 1	London University .. 1
Salford .. 1	
Stalybridge .. 1	Total .. 29

From all this it will appear that the Liberal chances are thirty-three against seven in England and Wales, exclusive of any gains from the extension of the suffrage in boroughs and counties returning their former members, to which latter class we may return. In Scotland it is supposed that out of the seven new seats the Liberals will secure five and the Tories two. All this makes a gain of twenty-five, counting fifty votes in a division, without going into the old constituencies, which will be vastly reinforced by the lowering of the franchise.

PEACE MEETING IN PARIS.

On Monday, the 8th inst., an interesting meeting was held in Paris, at the Salle Hertz, Rue de la Victoire. It was the first anniversary of the "International League of Peace," established in France about a year ago. At half-past two the chair was taken by M. Jean Dollfus, the Mayor of Mulhouse, and one of the vice-presidents of the League. Among those present were M. Hypolite Passy, former Minister of Finance; M. G. Deichtal, a distinguished publicist; M. Guérault, editor of the *Opinion Nationale*; M. Joseph Garnier, editor of the *Journal des Economistes*; M. Auguste Visselars, of Brussels; M. de Lesseps, director of the Suez Canal; M. Charles Dollfus, a journalist; M. Courcelle-Seneuil, Quijano; M. Isidor, grand rabbi of the Jews; M. Martin Paschoud, Protestant pastor; several Catholic priests, one of whom was a canon; Mr. Edward Pease, of Darlington; Mr. Henry Richard, secretary of the London Peace Society; Mr. Chamerovzow, secretary of the Anti-Slavery Society; Rev. James Davies, secretary of the Evangelical Alliance, &c., &c. The spacious room was quite full in every part, and among the audience there was a considerable number of ladies and of young men from the colleges.

The president opened the meeting with a short but very suitable and judicious speech, and then called upon M. Frederic Passy, the principal founder of the League, and its secretary, who presented an oral report, in which he expounded, with great clearness and force, the principle and objects of the society, and presented a statement of its operations for the past year. M. Visschers, president of the Peace Congress of Brussels in 1848, then gave to this meeting a *résumé* of the history of the peace movement, in which he paid an eloquent tribute to the zeal and perseverance of the English and American peace societies, who had for so many years steadfastly prosecuted the work of propagating the prin-

ciples of peace among the nations. The president next called upon Mr. Henry Richard, to whom the audience gave a most friendly and cordial reception, who spoke as the representative of the friends of peace in England. After him M. Isidor, the grand rabbi, and M. Martin Paschoud, delivered very stirring and animated speeches, the latter of whom also read a long and interesting letter from Père Gratry, the eloquent Catholic priest, expressing much regret at his inability to be present, and his hearty adhesion to the principles and objects of the League. The only disappointment was occasioned by the absence of M. Michel Chevalier, who was to have presented a paper on the Economy of Peace and War compared, but was unable to attend through indisposition. Those who still imagine our French neighbours are filled with warlike propensities and aspirations, would have had their notions somewhat disturbed if they had witnessed the loud acclamations with which that large assembly of French greeted every denunciation of war and of the false glory that surrounds it. This first meeting of the International League at Paris was in every respect a very gratifying success. After the meeting the members of the bureau and the foreign visitors dined together at the Hôtel de Louvre.

THE ESMONDE CASE.

(From the *Morning Star*.)

After a lengthened and exciting trial the jury have disagreed upon the Esmonde case; and as the matter is left for the present in doubt it would be indecorous in us to pronounce which side is in the right. But the circumstances deserve a brief review. Everything in Ireland is more or less tinged with the influence of bitter religious differences, and this great will case excites a degree of interest which could not be created without the presence of this disastrous element. The will in question is that of Lady Esmonde, wife of Sir Thomas Esmonde, of Johnstown Castle, in the county of Waterford. She was a Protestant; Sir Thomas is a Catholic. Their daughter married Lord Granard, and became a Catholic, and upon this circumstance, which greatly annoyed Lady Esmonde, the events of which evidence has been given may be said to have depended. Lady Esmonde was a friend of Mrs. S. C. Hall, and in a letter to that well-known lady, which was produced on the trial, she declared intentions similar to those which the will which is now disputed will, if supported, carry out. Her ladyship told Mrs. Hall that she had suffered very greatly owing to the "great wrong and injury Jeanie (Lady Granard) had done our pure Protestant religion by joining the Catholics." It was natural enough that she should feel thus. And the judge made some observations in summing up the evidence which showed that he considered the change of religion in a child a circumstance calculated to wring the heart of a parent; but he also expressed what Lady Esmonde does not seem to have been capable of entertaining—a sense of the respect due to the conscientious convictions of the child whose religion was so changed. Lady Esmonde thought only of the injury to Protestantism, and resolved that Protestantism should enjoy the possessions which Lady Granard had forfeited. This she told Mrs. Hall would, in a great measure, counteract the wrong and injury "Jeanie's" conversion had occasioned. She meant to build, found, and maintain a first-rate divinity college in Wexford in connection with Trinity College. The college was to be called Grogan College, "in order to connect the name with the Protestant religion which his child" (meaning Sir Thomas, who is thus very incoherently introduced) "has so disgraced by forsaking." We confess we imagine Protestantism was little the worse for the secession of the young lady whose theological errors filled her mamma's venerable eyes with tears; but as legacies were in the wind, and as, besides the college, there was to be a church endowed, and a school and a parsonage added, to complete the benefaction, it is not wonderful that representatives were forthcoming to secure the advantages thus temptingly promised.

One could wish that Lady Esmonde had remained in better health, and that the representatives of the Protestant interest had been enabled to assist at the making of her will under circumstances less liable to misconstruction by a naughty world. The counsel instructed to dispute and invalidate the will represent the scene in a light which certainly cannot be regarded as pleasant or creditable; and though the judge summed up in favour of the will, and the jury did not decide against it, there must be a general desire that the 30,000*l.* which is in question had been disposed of under circumstances less peculiar. At first a long will was prepared, and it was upon the representations of Dr. Hughes, who stands for the Protestant cause in this matter, from the circumstance of his having been a private friend and spiritual adviser of Lady Esmonde, that the draught, which covered ten or twelve pages, was put aside, and a much shorter one used. Now, counsel for the family speak of Dr. Hughes's situation in a very irreverent way, and it must be confessed that his own evidence invites a few ribald shafts. It seems that when Lady Esmonde mentioned the matter on the Sunday before the Monday morning on which the will was signed with Lady Esmonde's mark, Dr. Hughes begged her not to speak of business on the Sabbath day. He says he prayed by her bedside and gave her spiritual counsel. Upon cross-examination he admitted that he prayed for the lost sheep, and counsel seemed to insinuate that this was a mode of setting the old lady against her daughter, and keeping up her pious Grogan intentions. He admits that he thought it the duty of a Christian friend to promote the making of her ladyship's will, and he did not explain how he reconciled his scruples against

speaking of business to Lady Esmonde and his own arrangements made on Sunday with Mr. Meredith for the altering of the draught. Another circumstance still more likely to be perverted by the profane was Dr. Hughes having watched, with an eider-down quilt upon him, outside Lady Esmonde's room, lest the old lady's husband, Sir Thomas, should bring up a priest, and having sat also in view of a looking-glass, in order to see who went into her ladyship's room.

Upon all this, Serjeant Armstrong was very satirical. He said Dr. Hughes had got into snug quarters—quarters celebrated for venison and port. He pictured the reverend gentleman wrapped in his eider-down, with a pastry in his hand, and a bottle of thirty years' old claret under the chair. Serjeant Armstrong also ridiculed very severely an objection to introduce a strange face into the room, which had been raised about the time when Lady Esmonde was, as he called it, "snapped up." But, of course, it was this snapping up which was the main object of the learned counsel's attacks. At six in the morning, after the spiritual conversation Dr. Hughes had had on the Sunday evening with Lady Esmonde, Mr. Meredith, the solicitor, was roused out of bed, and brought into Lady Esmonde's room in his stocking feet to witness the will which had been prepared in brief. The old lady was very ill, and Sir Thomas Esmonde bears witness that she immediately afterwards told him "they" had held her hand while she made her mark. But the circumstance chiefly relied upon to show that Lady Esmonde was not "of a disposing mind" was, that in the short will which was then made there were several variations and omissions from the longer draught. Amongst these omissions was actually the stipulation that the bequest should be limited to the Provost and Fellows of Trinity College so long as they were Protestant. The argument, of course, is that there was too much haste on the part of Lady Esmonde's friends, and too little exercise of discretion on the part of Lady Esmonde herself, to justify the Probate Court in deciding the will to be valid. Another effort will have to be made to bring the matter to arbitration; for, while no one can say till a jury has decided whether Dr. Hughes played the part of a Cantwell, or only that, as the judge evidently believes, of a well-intentioned friend, it must be evident that Sir Thomas Esmonde acts naturally in contesting a will made under such very curious circumstances. The judge has excited some surprise by a ruling which goes to establish that a will may be partly good and partly bad, and that also will probably be considerably called in question before this remarkable suit is determined.

Poetry.

TO THE NIGHTINGALE.

The summer evening falls, the toil-worn day
Slowly retires behind the peaceful hills,
But lingers listening to thy happy lay,
That all the shadowy wood with rapture fills;
The murmuring voices of the pensive rills
Sleep softly in the bosom of thy song,
And in sweet dreams of music glide along.

Silently comes the night with starry brow,
Clad in a robe of fragrance, newly spun
From the rich heart of Beauty all a-glow
With joy to hear thy loud thanksgiving run
Through gladsome mazes that the day is done;
So may a soul new-born to heavenly bliss
Sing o'er its passage from a world like this.

Where dost thou hide thee when the morning breaks,
Drowning thy song with light? Sweet hermit, tell!
When the loud anthem of the wood awakes
In what green cloister dost thou love to dwell,
And learn the song thou singest now so well?
Thy lay is vocal with thy solitude,
And o'er thy thrilling notes doth silence brood.

And say, what magic is it that doth fill
With other accents all thy melodies?
Voices that blend with thine have long been still,
Death lives, while life with all its turmoil dies,
Entomb'd among the graves of memories.
I hear in thine so many voices dear,
It seems an angel choir is hovering near.

O sweet magician! borne upon thy song,
My spirit traverses the misty years—
Back from weak manhood unto childhood strong,—
When life's worst ills were washed away in tears,
When good was good, and not what it appears
Dimm'd with regrets, with passion, and with sighs,
In troubled waters, under angry skies.

W. K.

Postscript.

Wednesday, June 17, 1868.

YESTERDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

The House of Lords sat for nearly two hours last evening, and passed several bills a stage forward. None of the bills were of great public interest.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS BILL.

There was a morning sitting of the House of Commons yesterday. It was wholly occupied with a discussion on the Public Schools Bill. On the motion to go into committee on the bill, Mr. NEATE proposed that the measure should be referred back to the select committee for the insertion of clauses giving power to the new governing bodies and the commissioners to be appointed by the bill to deal with the constitution and revenues of Eton and Winchester Colleges. The hon. gentleman spoke at

considerable length in support of his proposal, thus deferring the work in committee, which Mr. DISRAELI thinks to be the only appropriate business for morning sittings, there being no opportunity—unless an hon. gentleman specially provides one for himself—to wander into the long discussions which generally take place on motions for second reading when the principle of a measure is under consideration. After some discussion Mr. Neate's amendment was set aside, and the clauses were considered in committee until twenty minutes to seven, when, on the motion of Mr. WALPOLE, progress was reported.

NOVA SCOTIA.

At the evening sitting Mr. BRIGHT called attention to the complaints of the Nova Scotians in reference to the confederation of the British North American colonies, and moved for a commission of inquiry into the complaints. In making this proposal Mr. Bright reviewed the whole of the circumstances under which the Act of Confederation was passed, and showed conclusively that the people of Nova Scotia were as nearly as possible unanimous in their objection to being united to Canada. He argued that an inquiry was urgently called for. Mr. BAXTER supported the proposition, and Mr. ADDERLEY, on behalf of the Government, opposed it. He contended that if the allegations of the petition were true, to send out a Royal Commission would be an insane act; that whatever discontent existed was being removed by a totally different process. In a little time longer Mr. Adderley confidently expected they would disappear altogether. The influence of Nova Scotia had been almost dominant in the Dominion Parliament; numerous changes had been made in favour of the maritime provinces, and their free-trade policy was getting the better of the Protectionist leanings of Canada. Confederation was the only alternative of annexation to the United States, for these provinces could not remain for ever in an independent position; and he earnestly urged the House not to sanction the first step towards a reactionary policy. Mr. CARDWELL took much the same ground as Mr. Adderley. The motion was supported by Mr. GORST and opposed by Mr. KARSLEIGH; and, after a rather angry reply from Mr. BRIGHT, the House rejected it by 183 to 87.

The LORD ADVOCATE brought in a bill to amend the law regulating municipal elections in Scotland.

Mr. M'EVROY attempted to bring on the second reading of his Ecclesiastical Titles Bill, although Mr. HARDY advised him to defer it until the Lords' report, just agreed to, had been communicated to the Commons. But on a division the adjournment was carried by 142 to 85.

Mr. GLADSTONE'S Suspensory Bill was read a third time and passed, with a final protest from Colonel S. KNOX.

The other business was disposed of, and the House adjourned at ten minutes past one o'clock.

THE DESPATCHES FROM AFRASINIA, which were received at the India Office on Saturday last, are at length published in the *Gazette*. The first—which is dated Camp Antalo, May 12—is from Sir Robert Napier, and it gives an account of the operations resulting in the fall of Magdala. Sir Robert Napier regrets that, owing to the difficulties of his march and the many demands on his time, he had not been able to complete his despatches earlier. By the next mail he hoped to send the conclusion, which would include the re-embarkation of the greater part of the force, and he would then be able to represent for the favourable consideration of the Government the services of the officers and men, of which he says it would be impossible to write in too high terms, and to which he could not then do justice. The despatch from the Commander-in-Chief is followed by one from Major-General Sir Charles Staveley, giving an account of the operations of the division under his command. A list of the wounded is added.

Mr. Longfellow yesterday received the degree of Honorary Doctor of Laws at Cambridge. His reception from the crowd of dignitaries that thronged the floor of the Senate House, and from the undergraduates who crowded the galleries, was most cordial, not to say enthusiastic.

THE ENGLISH CHURCH UNION.—Politicians of varying degrees of opinion met on the same platform yesterday, at the Freemasons' Tavern. The occasion was the annual meeting of the English Church Union, and the Hon. C. L. Wood, eldest son of Lord Halifax, was in the chair. The Earl of Limerick, Lord Eliot, M.P., Lord Henry Scott, M.P., Sir E. Lechmere, M.P., and many Church dignitaries and laymen from various parts of the country, attended the gathering. Amongst the speakers was Dr. Pusey, who was loudly cheered in moving a protest against the secularisation of the ecclesiastical revenues in Ireland, and the diversion of religious endowments to other than religious purposes.

BRISTOL ELECTION PETITION.—The committee which has been appointed to try the merits of this petition consists of Mr. Howes, Mr. Goldney, and Lord John Manners, Conservatives; and Mr. Bazley and Mr. R. More, Liberals.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

The account from the agricultural districts in regard to the prospects of the crop having been less favourable than of late, in consequence of the prolonged drought, there was more firmness apparent in the wheat trade this morning. The show of English samples was small, and, although millers operated with great caution, Mondays' advance of 1*s.* per qr. was steadily maintained. Foreign wheat—the supply of which was extensive—met a retail inquiry, on fully former terms. Barley changed hands to a fair extent, but inferior parcels were rather easier. The malt trade was quiet, but without alteration in price. Oats were steady in value and demand; good sound corn realising extreme prices.

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"W. M. H." and "John Ross," declined.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 1868.

SUMMARY.

THE hand of the assassin has stricken down one of the Princes of Europe. Prince Michael of Serbia was last Wednesday shot dead, in open day, on one of the public promenades of Belgrade. In him the Porte has lost one of its most troublesome and ambitious satraps, who, not long since, wrung from the Sultan the withdrawal of the Turkish garrison at Belgrade—the last external symbol of Ottoman sovereignty which galled the sensitive Servians. No disturbance was caused by the catastrophe of last Wednesday. The population rallied to the support of the Provisional Government, which was at once formed; the assassins—three are said to have been engaged in the crime—were promptly captured; but whether it was an act of private revenge, or the result of political conspiracy, is not yet clear. The claim of the young son of Prince Michael to the vacant dignity will apparently be put forward by the Serbian people, and not resisted by the Sultan, and during his minority a regency will be established. The untimely death of Prince Michael, although he was a protégé of Russia, is not likely to reopen the Eastern question. Serbia enjoys practical independence under the suzerainty of the Porte, and the sturdy population of that agricultural and semi-barbarous country have far more to fear from the intrigues of the Czar than the intervention of the Sultan.

Though it has not been possible of late to convene a regular Peace Congress in France, the "International League of Peace" was able to hold its anniversary meeting at Paris last week. Its proceedings were conducted with moderation, and the eminence of many of the speakers who gave a hearty support to the new organisation, is a proof that the cause does not lack eloquent advocates. At present "the Empire is peace," and the aspirations of the war party in France are effectually restrained by the known wishes of the mass of the population, which were fairly reflected by persons of different positions and political tendencies at last week's meeting. Time and all civilising influences are on their side. The extension of free institutions in Germany and Austria will prove a new guarantee against the warlike tendencies of their respective Courts and Cabinets, while in France the growth of commerce and material interests is opposing powerful obstacles to the revival of the war fever.

The Presidential campaign has fairly commenced in the United States. General Grant has accepted the nomination of the Chicago Republican Convention, promises to obey faithfully the will of the people, and concludes his brief letter of acceptance with the emphatic words, "Let us have peace." His prospects will be greatly influenced by the action of the Democratic party, who, if they succeed in securing Chief Justice Chase as their candidate, are expected to fight a stout battle, though hardly to win the election. Meanwhile, the Senate has passed the Bill for admitting to Congress the representatives of the two Carolinas, Georgia, Louisiana, and Alabama; and the toning down of political excitement is manifest

in the general approval of the President's appointment of Mr. Reverdy Johnson—a Conservative Democrat of high standing and character—as the successor of Mr. Adams in the English Embassy.

The Duke of Edinburgh has sailed from Sydney direct for England, and O'Farrell, who attempted to assassinate his Royal Highness, has suffered the extreme penalty of the law. Before his execution, the criminal entirely retracted his previous statement that he had either instigators or accomplices. "From brooding over the wrongs of Ireland, I became," O'Farrell says, in a letter left behind him, "excited and filled with enthusiasm on the subject, and it was when under the influence of those feelings that I attempted to perpetrate the deed for which I am now justly called upon to suffer." This statement is probably true. It diminishes the importance of the attack on the Prince in a political point of view, and relieves from grave suspicion persons both in the colony and at home who were supposed to be parties to an execrable conspiracy.

The House of Commons is trying in earnest to bring the Session to a close. On Thursday, the Boundary Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, was accepted on a party division by a majority of 36, and the remaining clauses of the Scotch Reform Bill were disposed of. The Irish Bill also passed through Committee on Monday, except the redistribution scheme of the Government, which is likely to be either considerably modified, or altogether abandoned. Morning sittings have been commenced with the view of expediting the remaining business of the Session, and saving time for the consideration of the Bribery Bill—a measure which both the Ministerial and Opposition leaders regard as essential in view of a general election. The Irish Church strife has ceased for this Session in the Commons. Last night Mr. Gladstone's Suspensory Bill was read a third time and passed, after a verbal protest from Colonel Stuart Knox, who rejoices, not without warrant in the belief that it will be thrown out in the House of Lords.

The Home Secretary has introduced his Bill for shortening the registration process with a view to an early dissolution. By the new arrangements which he proposes, he expects that the new Parliament will be able to meet about the 9th of December, in time, he thinks, for a decision before Christmas as to the principles on which the Government shall be conducted. The interval is sufficiently short, and Mr. Dodson, an experienced authority, gives good reason for thinking that it would be easy for the new House of Commons to meet a week earlier than the time suggested by Mr. Hardy. Mr. Gladstone, however, expressed himself satisfied with the Home Secretary's Bill, which is to be referred to a Select Committee for due consideration.

NEARING THE END OF THE SESSION.

THE Irish Reform Bill was pushed very nearly through Committee on Monday evening. To be sure, the progress made was a great deal more in form than in reality. The franchise clauses were disposed of for the time being, not, however, without a promise of a conflict for the reduction of the occupation qualification for counties from 12*l.* to 8*l.* The Redistribution clauses have been remitted to the "respectful consideration" of the Government, either for omission from the Bill, or for supersession by some fairer scheme. Certain new clauses, also, have yet to pass through the ordeal of languid discussion. But the Parliamentary Reform measures will probably be substantially completed to-morrow, and the representative system of the United Kingdom will be settled into the form in which it is destined to take effect at the forthcoming General Election. The Lords, of course, will have to revise the handiwork of the Commons—but it is not anticipated that they will repudiate anything that is pressed upon their acceptance by the present Government. Another month will see the end of the Parliament elected under Palmerstonian auspices, and presided over chiefly by Conservative Ministries.

Two of the greatest legislative changes of the present time—changes, indeed, which in their scope and probable effect, will amount to what society has been accustomed to characterise as revolution—have received the sanction of the most unpatriotic Parliament since 1832. The one has extended the basis of the constituent bodies, not only beyond the expectation, but beyond even the desire of the public—the other has initiated the principle of disestablishment and disendowment in Ireland. Both of these

are great measures—both, when perfected, will almost certainly conduce to the highest public advantage—and yet neither for the completion of the one, nor for the inception of the other, will the expiring Parliament be remembered with respect. How is this? What is the reason that the instrument which has achieved such promising marvels, should itself be so lightly esteemed? The answer is not by any means remote or uncommon. The motives by which the will is determined, and not the results following, or likely to follow, its decision, are almost invariably the measure of the honour and gratitude awarded to those whose will they are supposed to have swayed. What good things the present Parliament has done, it has done, for the most part, unintentionally, and if it were at liberty to do them over again, it would decline to do in their present shape. The House of Commons, soon to be dismissed, came into being as a response to nothing but a constitutional necessity. It was elected because the legal time for a General Election was come and could not be evaded. That election turned—nominally at least—upon an issue exclusively personal. It was meant to subserve no policy in particular. It evoked no public enthusiasm. It was made up of a host of local squabbles, in the dust of which the real interests of the country were lost sight of, the dreams of private ambition were sought to be realised, wealth was lavished like water in corrupt practices, and a colourless Liberalism, the reflection of an octogenarian diplomatist's mind, gained the ascendant. The time was one of unprecedented commercial inflation, during the continuance of which wealth was the idol at whose shrine society did its devotions with most assiduity and sincerity, political principle was held to be supererogatory, and the highest of the virtues was the doing of good to oneself.

The meanest instrument, however, as if in irony, is sometimes made use of for the grandest works. This Parliament may be truly said to have been given over to self-seeking. A majority of its members hated nothing so much as earnestness, and it was so ordered that an earnest spirit had to lead it in the first instance. Its recalcitrations, its sullen discontent, its secret treacheries, and, finally, its delight in escaping from exalted moral restraint, and so inviting the guidance of audacious imposture, will never be forgotten even by those who hoped to profit by its misconduct. But it had its reward. It loved delusion, and at the heels of delusion it went. Well, it was itself deceived into the doing of a better thing than it had intended. It supposed that by some sort of solemn hocus-pocus it would be able to shuffle Reform out of sight; and, lo! it found itself suddenly in presence of household suffrage, with no retreat but by the way of violent revolution, and, of course, it succumbed. The leader who had lured them thither, and who afterwards boasted that this was precisely where he wished and had studied to land them, could hardly make them his dupes without making them also his enemies, and they burned to visit him with their revenge. There was a reaction towards honesty, earnestness, and integrity, and the tools of Disraeli began to turn their faces towards Gladstone.

The nominally Liberal party were anxious to become re-united, and, when re-united, to oust the sponsor for the Reform Bill. Mr. Gladstone, whose views had made a more rapid advance towards perfect Liberalism, in proportion as he was more earnest in his patriotism than many by whom he was surrounded, sounded the war-cry of "Justice to Ireland." It was boisterously caught up, and re-echoed by the party. It was even adopted by simulation on the other side, and the Disraeli Government felt compelled to show its hand. Thereupon it became indispensable for Mr. Gladstone to show his. He did so in his usual manly, straightforward fashion. Having a work to do, he chose to do it in a statesmanlike way—in a way as marked by principle, and as free of compromise as possible. We have a shrewd suspicion that a majority of the men who sat behind him were as woefully taken in by his simplicity of purpose as they were last Session by Mr. Disraeli's sleight-of-hand. They had had no desire to commit themselves to the disendowment of the Irish Church. They did not understand it. They did not like the look of it. But what were they to do? They could not once more desert to the great magician. They could not trip up the heels of their own leader, and face, with any success, a General Election. They had to vote for what they would have greatly preferred to have dropped into oblivion, and thus a second time the House did a good thing, which, in the outset, it had entertained no intention of doing.

Are we ungrateful in thus speaking? Is it wrong to feel contempt where contempt is pro-

voked? This House of Commons has justified its origin by conferring, in spite of its own distaste, the highest boons upon the people. It was born without a will, and has been used without regard to its will. There are glorious men in the House—several—but, considered apart from the lustre they cast upon it, the House, as a representative and legislative body, has showed itself far below the average type of its predecessors. Highmindedness it certainly does not possess, for it has stooped with incredible meanness to every humiliation inflicted upon it. It is more easily led by Disraeli than by Gladstone; it is more fittingly led by imposture than reality. It is itself mainly an imposture, and has been from the beginning, and its greatest acts of imposition are those in which it has most benefited the country. Hence it is that few men refuse to acknowledge the incalculable worth of what it has done, and none, or next to none, feel any indebtedness to it for having done it. Its latter days have been among its worst, and its scandals and squabbles have lowered the public estimate of Parliamentary government. Its course is nearly run; its days are drawing to an end; we may surely hope that no House chosen by the new constituencies with a view to a great national issue will be likely to exhibit the same frivolousness, ill-temper, spite, and treachery, as that through which a House chosen on personal grounds has achieved the highest legislative triumphs.

THE GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH BILL.

THE conversion of the whole of the telegraph lines in the kingdom into national property, and the transference of the management of them to a Government department, appears to us precisely one of those questionable measures which a moribund Parliament ought not to have been called upon to sanction. The ways of Cabinet Ministers certainly are not as other men's ways. Most people would have thought that a revolution in the authority by which telegraphic communication is presided over and regulated—a revolution, too, which contravenes the policy that has hitherto prevailed in this country affecting the facilities of trade and commerce—would, even if strongly recommended by its ascertained merits, have been remitted to the wisdom of the ensuing Reformed Parliament. The House of Commons is so near its dissolution, that it retains scarcely spirit enough to transact with decent care the most urgent business. Its members are more intent just now upon securing their seats, than upon weighing the reasons for and against a gigantic scheme of monopoly—we use the word in no offensive sense—and if they can give their attention to other than indispensable law-making, there are many measures which have a prior claim upon their labour. The introduction of the Bill is intelligible enough—it may circulate through the country with advantage during the recess—but why Mr. Hardy should resolve upon forcing it through the present House is more than we can well understand.

The principle of the measure would at one time have encountered more serious opposition than seems likely to be offered to it by the public at this time of day. Time was when any attempt to substitute Government management for private enterprise in matters relating to social accommodation would have been scouted as retrogressive. It must be admitted, however, that competition has not brought with it all the advantages which the public were led to expect. Joint-Stock Companies have not succeeded in exhibiting the superiority of their management, even for the benefit of their shareholders, in such a light as to win them much favour; and, as regards the accommodation they secure to the public, the less said of them, perhaps, the better. Nothing can exceed the indignities, often amounting to breach of contract, which some of the railway directorates put upon their passengers. Whatever, therefore, may be said in favour of the necessarily more economical and successful administration of remunerative schemes by private enterprise has lost much of its force in reference to public opinion. The Post-office, undoubtedly, will compare most advantageously with anything in the way of joint-stock service, and it may be thought, as indeed it is by many, that Government is as well qualified to superintend the transmission of messages through the electric wire, as to distribute with despatch and punctuality written communications.

It is easy to see the benefits to be gained by the proposed transference—extension to remote places of telegraphic facilities, cheapness, method and reliability. But it is not so easy to see at a glance the evils which might be expected to

arise. That its recommendations would be counterbalanced by many undesirable results is tolerably certain. Into these no serious preliminary inquiry has been made. There has been no Select Committee to take evidence in justification of the preamble of the Bill. The most competent authorities in the House of Commons, although confessedly inclined to view the proposition with favour, are yet in doubt how far obvious objections to it are capable of being removed. The scheme comes before the country in an undefined and immature shape, nor has it yet been tested by the usual methods of investigation. The principle of it is assumed, not proved; and it is one the adoption of which ought to be warily looked at unless it be sustained by a full and satisfactory amount of evidence.

These, however, are the circumstances and conditions under which Mr. Hardy brings in, and is intent upon pushing through his measure. That it can wait till next year without any serious detriment to the public, and that by making it wait, the country may have a much better opportunity of forming a correct judgment of its merits, appears to be a reason with the Home Secretary for thrusting it immediately into the mill of legislation. The right hon. gentleman has what in slang language is called "plenty of go" in him. It is a pity he does not use more discrimination in choosing the occasions for its exhibition. He frequently acts like a man whose great ability is marred by some flaw. He should listen to the advice given by the poet Cowper to young ladies—

Choose not alone a proper mate,
But proper time to marry.

THE CRISIS WITHOUT AN END.

WHAT is called "the Parliamentary deadlock" in Victoria continues. The two Chambers were, by the last accounts, still at open issue, and the subjects of Queen Victoria in that flourishing colony, from the Governor downwards, are at their wits end to discover a way out of their political perplexities. Our colonial brethren, with the aid of Downing-street at home, have managed to put together a constitutional puzzle which baffles alike the astute statesmanship of England and Victoria.

The story of this remarkable quarrel is long and involved, and dates back now many years. It arose out of the legitimate, though extreme, exercise of its rights by the Legislative Council of Victoria, in opposition to the protectionist policy of the House of Representatives, and widened into a protracted conflict between the two Assemblies, in the course of which Governor Sir Charles Darling, leaning somewhat to the popular branch of the Legislature with a view to avoid financial difficulties, was recalled by the Home Government. The antagonism between the two Houses now assumed another shape. Regarding the late Governor as a martyr to popular rights, the Assembly voted a grant of 20,000*l.*, not to Sir Charles himself, but to Lady Darling, with the object of evading the rule which prohibits colonial officials from accepting gifts at the hands of those whom they govern. The Council refused to assent to the vote, and, when it was tacked to the Appropriation Bill, threw out that also. More than once the country has been appealed to, but only to strengthen the supporters of the claims of the Lower House. At the last election, early in the present year, the M'Culloch Ministry, which represents the popular party, obtained an increasing majority—the proportion of Liberals to Conservatives being about three to one. But the Council continued obstinate relative to the Darling grant, and the Government resigned.

Since last March Victoria has been without a Government, and Sir H. Manners Sutton, who succeeded Sir Charles Darling, is unable to persuade any section of politicians in the colony to undertake the responsibilities of office. One political leader after another has been appealed to, but without practical result. The Conservatives declined the task unless accompanied with the power of again dissolving Parliament; which the Governor declined to grant, on the ground that a fresh appeal to the constituencies after the recent decisive elections would be useless. Sir Henry then applied to the more moderate members of the majority, but their successive efforts to form a Ministry were unsuccessful. "It now began to be perceived," writes the *Times* correspondent, "that the task of forming Governments with two-thirds of a House of Commons frowning in the front was very like trying to make bricks without straw. And besides this, most of the men thus solicited to accept office, had their misgivings about their chances of re-election, on going back, as they of course would have been obliged to do, for the sanction of their constituents." The baffled

Governor had, when the last mail left, sent again to Mr. M'Culloch, and on his refusal to withdraw his resignation, insisted on the right of the Queen's representative to retain the services of the late Ministry! To this novel doctrine Mr. M'Culloch refused to accede, and the colony of Victoria remains without a Government.*

In this strange conjuncture the colony has received little help from the mother country. Lord Carnarvon recalled Sir C. Darling for endeavouring to find a solution of Victorian difficulties by some concession to popular feeling, and insisted upon the rigid neutrality of the Governor. His lordship's successor, the Duke of Buckingham, has somewhat departed from this policy by recommending that the Governor shall not forbid those formal acts which are necessary to bring the Darling grant "under the consideration of the local Parliament," and by expressing his "regret" that the Council should have rejected the last temporary Supply Bill. The course taken by his Grace has been severely censured in the House of Lords by Liberal statesmen as subversive of the authority of the Colonial Office. But if it becomes a question between the claims of the Crown and the rights of the people of Victoria, the former must be held in abeyance, unless colonial freedom is to become a mere figment. The Crown has an unquestioned right to veto any Bills sent over by the Government of Victoria for its sanction, but it has no reasonable claim to bind its representative at Melbourne to such a course of action as prevents the free exercise of constitutional rights in the colony. In England such difficulties do not occur, because the Sovereign accepts the decision of the majority, and chooses her Ministers in accordance with that decision. But though the M'Culloch Government represents the clear and oft-expressed will of the great majority of Victorian colonists, they are thwarted in their policy not only by the Legislative Council, but by the action of the Queen's representative.

Possibly the new position assumed by Sir Charles Darling may cut the gordian knot of this intricate constitutional problem. The late Governor had retired from the public service, but he is stated to have now, with the consent of the Home Government, withdrawn his resignation. He will thus become entitled to the maximum pension of a governor not in active service. By this expedient the proposed Darling grant, the bone of contention between the two Victorian Chambers, will become inapplicable; and there will be more chance of a compromise between the two Houses, without any sacrifice of the technical rights of either Assembly. But our own constitution, however admirably it may work amongst ourselves, is ill-suited for any of our dependencies, so long as the responsibility of the local executive is fettered by the restraints of our Colonial Office, and incapable, as in the case of the M'Culloch Ministry, of giving effect to the declared wishes of the people; and we are at a loss to understand how the theories broached on the subject by Liberal statesmen in the House of Lords can be reconciled with the acknowledged rights of "a self-governed dependency."

THE HANDEL FESTIVAL.

The third triennial Handel Festival may be said to have commenced on Friday last, when there was a full rehearsal of the principal choruses and many of the solos at the Crystal Palace, in the presence of some 20,000 persons. The great transept presented a very imposing spectacle long before the performance commenced. The wide expanse of floor, a part of the galleries, and every available space was occupied, if not quite filled, by a mass of gaily-dressed visitors, and the great orchestra was crowded to its utmost capacity by the performers, who numbered altogether some 4,000 persons. As we have already stated, the transept was screened on either side of the orchestra, and was thus made, as far as possible, a complete concert-room. The wisdom of this contrivance was signally manifested. Soon after one o'clock Mr. Costa took his seat at the conductor's desk, and the "National Anthem" was begun, the sopranos leading off with the first verse, the altos (a fourth below) taking the second, and the rest being given to the "tutti," vocal and instrumental. A thrill of delight and satisfaction seemed to pervade the vast assembly at the evident and unqualified success of the arrangements for the festival. Though the volume of sound was by no means overpowering, the harmony of instruments and voices was distinct and delightful. The discipline of the stringed instru-

* A telegram from Melbourne, dated May 14th, states that a new Government has at length been formed, with some apparent prospect of stability, but there is no information as to the policy it will represent.

mental performers and the choral host alike seemed to be perfect. Together, they poured forth a strain of music such as the world had never before listened to. The picked choral singers of all England were there; and their manifest proficiency, united to the mellowness and fine quality of their intonation, left nothing to be desired. At the conclusion of the "National Anthem," during the performance of which the audience remained standing, it was manifest to all that this Triennial Festival would surpass all its predecessors in the highest and grandest of musical effects.

Two choruses only were selected from the "Messiah" for rehearsal, "And the glory of the Lord" and the "Hallelujah"—the latter being given with unsurpassed effect. Then followed a selection from to-day's (Wednesday's) programme, including the choicest choruses from "Saul," and "Solomon," and "The Dead March," which was performed by the orchestra with a simple grandeur that produced a profound sensation. There was also a selection from Handel's "Semele," "Alexander's Feast," and "Deborah"; and "See the Conquering Hero comes" was rendered with an energy and effect so remarkable as to provoke an encore—with a single exception, the only one accorded during the day. The principal solo singers—the finest at present in England—were Mesdames Lemmens-Sherrington, Sainton-Dolby, Mdlle. Christine Nilsson, Kellogg, and Carola, and Messrs. Sims Reeves, Santley, Cummings, and Foli. The improved acoustic qualities of the building were most manifest in the solo singing—the voices of the accomplished vocalists being heard with remarkable distinctness.

Mr. Costa was obliged to curtail his lengthened programme as time advanced, and both audience and performers were somewhat wearied when the grand series of choruses from "Israel in Egypt" was fetched. They included, "He spake the word," "He gave them hailstones for rain," "He sent a thick darkness," "He rebuked the Red Sea and it was dried up," "The people shall hear" (most difficult of all), "The Lord shall reign," and the solo with chorus, "The horse and his rider." In some of these most difficult pieces there was hardly a hitch, so familiar appeared to be the singers with their theme, and so perfect was the control of the conductor over the multitude that responded to his baton.

The real festival commenced on Monday, when the "Messiah" was performed entire. It was from first to last magnificent. From the grave and solemn opening of the overture to the final chords of the "Amen" chorus, near upon 20,000 people listened as though they were hearing the well-known strains for the first time. We borrow from the *Pall Mall Gazette* a brief description of the principal features of the day's performance:—

After "God Save the Queen" had been sung it required no more than the first few bars of the overture to show that Mr. Costa's band was in perfect working order. With what effect the 101 first violins led off the fugue, answered by other parts of proportionate strength, can be imagined. It is not so easy, however, to conceive how much the overture gained by the immense force brought to bear upon it. We might almost say that it seemed another thing from the "Messiah" prelude of our ordinary acquaintance. The recitative "Comfort ye," and air "Every valley," were given by Mr. Sims Reeves admirably; anything finer than his delivery of the passage beginning "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness" is hard to imagine; but Mr. Reeves is, above all, unequalled in recitative. "And the glory of the Lord" brought out the chorus in splendid force, while not less did "But who may abide" enable Mdlle. Sainton-Dolby to show that she is still unapproached as a singer of Handel's contralto airs. Passing over the chorus "And he shall purify" (runs taken with extraordinary steadiness) and the succeeding air, we come upon two striking features in the performance—Mr. Santley's execution of "The people that walked in darkness," and the delivery of the great chorus, "For unto us." In its way the former was as fine as the latter; while the latter was, in point of grandeur, absolutely overwhelming. The thunderous crashes on the words "Wonderful," &c., will not readily be forgotten, being none the less effective because Mr. Costa did not insist upon his favourite pianissimo rendering of the context. A determined attempt to encore this chorus only ceased when the band had got a long way through the "Pastoral Symphony." Mdlle. Titians gave the Nativty recitatives in excellent style, but left a little to be desired in the florid passages of "Rejoice greatly." The same lady's departure from the text in "Come unto Him" (where, by-the-by, Handel never intended a soprano to be heard at all) had not even the merit of success, and injured a performance otherwise worthy of association with Mdlle. Dolby's "He shall feed his flock." A splendid rendering of "His yoke is easy"—the high treble B flat ringing out like a bell—brought the first part to an effective close.

We can do no more than glance at the prominent feature in the second part. First of these was "He was despised," an air by which, after "O rest in the Lord," Miss Dolby will be best remembered. The chain of choruses beginning with "Surely he hath

borne our griefs" could have had no finer climax than the impressive adagio at the words "And the Lord hath laid on Him," the burst of the basses as they came upon the upper C in leading off producing an indescribably grand effect. Mr. Sims Reeves sang the "Passion" music, and never sang it better. "How beautiful are the feet," well sung by Mdlle. Rudersdorf, "Why do the nations," given in Mr. Santley's best style, and such a rendering of "Thou shalt break them" as is only possible in Mr. Sims Reeves, appropriately led up to what was perhaps the finest performance of the "Hallelujah" ever heard. We must here say that the secondary tenor music was throughout admirably sung by Mr. W. H. Cummins. The two remaining airs, "I know that my Redeemer liveth" and "The trumpet shall sound" (trumpet obligato, Mr. Harper), were given by Mdlle. Titians and Mr. Santley respectively with faultless taste; and worthy of them, as of all that had gone before, was the execution of "Worthy is the Lamb," and its wonderful sequel, "Amen."

To-day, the miscellaneous selection, so admirably chosen from Handel's other oratorios, will be performed, and on Friday, the Festival will conclude with "Israel in Egypt," the most dramatic of the composer's works, and perhaps, on the whole, the best adapted for so vast an area as the Crystal Palace transept.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD.

On Thursday evening Mr. W. Vernon Harcourt, Q.C., the Liberal candidate for the representation of the city of Oxford, in the room of Mr. Neate, addressed the electors for the first time in the Town Hall, which was densely crowded in every part.

Mr. Harcourt met with a very enthusiastic reception. His speech was mainly an able exposure of Mr. Disraeli's ecclesiastical policy and a defence of Mr. Gladstone's Irish Church proposal. In the course of his address he said—

Mr. Gladstone's proposal had been objected to on the ground that it was injurious to Protestantism, and that in the result it must be fatal to the Church of England. But did religion depend upon Establishments? (Cheers.) When the fishermen of Galilee went forth to convert the heathen world, when they conquered the conquerors of the universe, when they went forth not in the strength of Establishments and endowments, but with the power of a saving faith and the promise of an endless life; they conquered not by carnal weapons, but by the sword of the Spirit and the shield of faith; and to tell him, therefore, that religion must depend upon Establishments and endowments was to convince him that persons who used such an argument did not appreciate the true character of religion. (Loud cheers.) They were also told that this policy would be injurious to Protestantism, but he would ask them to carry back their minds 300 years—to the movement when the free people of the world asserted for themselves a right to a free religion, and, he asked, whether it was by the force of Establishments and endowments that Protestantism came into existence? (Cries of "No, no.") Why, Protestantism waged war against and conquered the greatest Establishment the world ever saw—the Papacy of the middle ages. It fought against the richest endowments and the most powerful corporation, and it conquered, as Protestants believed, in consequence of the truth that was in it. Was it an Establishment that gave strength to the Huguenots at the massacre of St. Bartholomew? Was it Establishments and endowments that supported the martyred saints of Waldenses, whose bones whitened the valleys of Piedmont? (Cheers.) Why, those who said that Establishments and endowments were the essence of Protestantism must be ignorant of the history of mankind.

The so-called constitutional party were to the best of their ability injuring the monarchy—

How are they dealing with the monarchy and making use of the name of the Queen? The theory of the English Constitution is that the opinions of the Queen are the opinions of her Parliament and her people. This is one of the fundamental principles of the English Constitution which the Liberal party have for generations maintained and established. The Sovereign has no private opinions, no personal sympathies, and no party views, but speaks by the mouths of her Ministers, and when Parliament and the people disapprove the policy of the Ministers, they resign, and then a new Ministry represent the views of the House of Commons and the people, and express also the sentiments of the Crown. (Applause.) Thus the Crown is and always must be in accordance with Parliament and the people. This is the principle which makes the monarchy safe, because it makes it always in accordance with the wishes of the people. But what are these Constitutionalists doing? When they have lost the confidence of the country—when Parliament has condemned their policy and adopted that of the Opposition, they are trying to drag on a miserable and dishonoured existence by dragging the name of the Queen, whom we all love and venerate, into the arena of party politics, from which, by the principle of the Constitution, it ought to be religiously excluded. And thus the existence of a Constitutional Administration at the present moment is itself a flagrant violation of the Constitution. (Applause.)

Mr. E. T. SPIERS proposed the following resolution:—

That this meeting having heard Mr. William Vernon Harcourt's full and explicit declaration of his political views, consider him a fit and proper person to represent the city of Oxford in Parliament, and pledge themselves to support him at the ensuing election.

(Loud cheers.) Mr. Sheriff GREENWOOD seconded the resolution. The resolution was then put to the meeting. A forest of hands was held up in its favour, and only four or five against it—a result which was greeted with much cheering and clapping of hands.

Mr. Goldwin Smith occupied a seat on the platform, and, on being called upon, made a speech, in

which he supported Mr. Harcourt's candidature on public and personal grounds.

Dr. DEANE, the Conservative candidate, addressed a public meeting on Friday night. At the close of his speech, in the course of which he was frequently interrupted by calls for cheers for Messrs. Gladstone, Bright, and Harcourt, Alderman Thompson came forward to move a resolution. This was the signal for a great uproar, in the course of which Dr. Deane and most of his leading supporters left the hall. The meeting was brought to an abrupt conclusion without any resolution having been passed.

SUFFOLK (EAST).—It is expected that Colonel A. S. Adair will again come forward as a Liberal candidate for this division. He has three times been an unsuccessful candidate, viz., in 1843, 1859, and 1867; but on the two latter occasions he materially improved his position on the poll, and with an enlarged constituency is now expected to have a favourable chance of being returned.

SOUTH ESSEX.—On Friday night a numerously-attended meeting was held in the Public Hall, Walthamstow, for the purpose of hearing addresses from Mr. R. B. Wingfield Baker and Mr. Andrew Johnston, the Liberal candidates for the new representation of South Essex. Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, Bart., M.P., was to have presided, but in his absence Mr. Roger Cunliff was moved to the chair. Both candidates in their speeches expressed concurrence in Mr. Gladstone's policy. The following resolutions were then spoken to by Mr. R. A. Boyd, Mr. J. Spicer, Mr. William Fowler, and Mr. E. Clarke, and passed:—

That this meeting expresses its approval of the selection of candidates for South Essex made by the South Essex Liberal Committee, and pledges itself heartily to support Mr. Wingfield Baker and Mr. Andrew Johnston at the next election.

That this meeting hereby records its unqualified approbation of the declared intention of Mr. Wingfield Baker and Mr. Johnston to support Mr. Gladstone in the important measures he is introducing for the disestablishment of the Irish Church.

KENT (WEST).—Sir John Lubbock, Bart., and Mr. Angerstein have accepted the invitation to contest this division in the Liberal interest. Sir John will therefore abandon his intention of standing for London University. There is good prospect that both himself and his colleague will be returned.

BRADFORD.—On Thursday evening a public outdoor meeting of the inhabitants of the Bradford Moor district of the South Ward—convened by the Ward Committee—was held near the Wheat Sheaf Inn, Bradford Moor. The audience, which numbered many hundreds, was composed chiefly of working men. Mr. William Angus, president of the Bradford Trades Council, presided. The following was one of the resolutions carried:—

That Edward Miall, Esq., from his acknowledged ability as a statesman, and his undoubted fidelity to the popular cause, is pre-eminently qualified to represent the working classes in Parliament, and this meeting pledges itself to do all in its power to press forward the signing of the requisition to that gentleman, and also in the event of his accepting the invitation to use every proper means to secure his return to Parliament.

An amendment was moved to the effect—

That, considering that the votes given in Parliament by M. W. Thompson, Esq., have been satisfactory to his constituents, this meeting is of opinion that he should be again returned to represent Bradford in the new Parliament.

The chairman having called for a seconder without effect, the amendment fell to the ground, and the resolution was carried with perhaps three or four dissentients. Before separating, three hearty cheers were given for Mr. Miall.

STAMFORD.—Mr. William Unwin Heygate, who formerly represented Leicester, is the Conservative candidate for the seat at Stamford vacated by Lord Ingestræ.

FINSBURY.—It is rumoured that Mr. Alderman Figgins and Mr. Macgregor will come forward in opposition to the sitting members, Mr. Torrens and Mr. Alderman Lusk, who have faithfully served their constituents.

LEWES.—On Saturday Mr. Brand issued an address to the electors of this borough, announcing that he should not seek re-election; and Lord Pelham at the same time issued a circular, stating that, as Mr. Brand had waived his priority of claim, he should solicit a renewal of their support at the ensuing general election. It is believed that Mr. W. L. Christie, a county magistrate, and Master of the South-down Foxhounds, who is very popular in the neighbourhood, will contest the borough in the Conservative interest. Mr. Brand ascribes his retirement to "personal considerations," and expresses his hope of remaining in Parliament as the representative of another constituency for which he has been invited to stand.

NORWICH.—The central committee of the new Electoral Organisation unanimously adopted at their last meeting the following very concise and intelligible resolutions, to guide their policy at the forthcoming election:—

- 1st. If the Whigs bring forward one candidate, we will bring forward one.
- 2nd. If the Whigs support both, we will support both.
- 3rd. If the Whigs plump, we will plump.
- 4th. If the Whigs bring forward two, we will bring forward two.

It is contemplated to hold a great meeting of all the Liberal electors as soon as the new lists are out, which will be in the nature of a nomination meeting, and at which any name can be proposed.—*Norfolk News.*

THE SCOTCH UNIVERSITIES.—It was formally resolved at a meeting of members of the General Council of Glasgow University, on Thursday, to bring forward Mr. Gordon, the present Lord-Advocate, as a candidate for the representation of the

united constituencies of Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities. Professor Lyon Playfair has announced his intention to offer himself as a candidate for the Universities of Edinburgh and St. Andrew's, and promising, if elected, to resign his chair, that he may give his whole time to his legislative duties. His address is largely devoted to educational questions, and it pronounces clearly in favour of the disestablishment of the Irish Church.

CHELTEMHAM.—Mr. Agg Gardner, a local resident of Cheltenham, who formerly contested the borough unsuccessfully, has issued an address offering himself as a candidate *vice* Mr. Schreiber, who, as already announced, retires. Mr. Gardner is strongly in favour of the union of Church and State, but opposed to bigotry. He says:—

To the question of the disposition of the revenues of the Irish Church I will give the most careful consideration, but I defer until the report of the commissioners has been made any definite expression of opinion upon the subject, as being premature in the absence of a perfect knowledge of all the facts and circumstances of the case. To the principles embodied by Mr. Gladstone in his resolutions, I have no hesitation in affirming that I am steadfastly opposed.

NORFOLK.—The Liberal party will meet in a few days to make arrangements for contesting the two divisions of South-East and North-East Norfolk. Among the gentlemen mentioned as candidates have been Lord Bury, Mr. R. T. Gurdon, Mr. Edmond Wodehouse, &c.; but at present no definite arrangements have been made.

SOMERSETSHIRE.—It is generally understood that the sitting members for the Eastern division, Mr. Neville-Grenville and Mr. R. H. Paget, will offer themselves for the new division, the Mid-Somerset. The Liberals are expected to put forward Colonel Pinney, who formerly sat for Lyme Regis, and Captain Hayter, who now represents Wells, for the Eastern division. In the Western division Sir A. Hood retires, and it is not definitely settled who will be associated with Mr. Gore-Langton in the Conservative interest. It is highly probable that the Liberals will make an effort to obtain one seat. The names of the Conservative candidates for the Eastern division are not yet announced.

TEWKESBURY.—There will no doubt be a hard fight for this borough. At present two Conservatives—Sir E. A. H. Lechmere and Mr. Yorke—occupy the seats, but as the borough will, under the new Reform Bill, lose one of the seats, it is understood that the junior retires. The Liberals, however, will put in their claim, and Mr. Martin, who for so many years represented that interest, will, it is believed, be put forward again, and a hard-fought contest will be the result.

WESTBURY.—Sir Massey Lopes, who has represented this borough for many years, will, it is expected, stand in the Conservative interest for the new division of Devon; but as yet he has not made known his intentions. It is the desire of the Liberals in the borough to have Mr. A. Laverton, a local manufacturer, as their representative.

NORTH WILTS.—The Marquis of Worcester, the young son of the Duke of Beaufort, has issued an address offering himself as a candidate for North Wilts in the new Parliament. It is of the regular Tory type. He will stoutly defend the union of Church and State, and "our Protestant institutions."

DENBIGHSHIRE BOROUGH.—The Liberals have resolved to oppose the re-election of Mr. Townshend Mainwaring, who is a supporter of the present Government, and have selected as their candidate Mr. Watkin Williams, of Plas Draw, Ruthin, barrister, who has addressed several public meetings, and expressed his resolution to fight the battle out to a successful issue as the supporter of Mr. Gladstone and true Liberalism.

GREENOCK.—Mr. W. D. Christie, formerly M.P. for Weymouth, and afterwards Minister in Buenos Ayres and Brazil, has issued an address to the electors of Greenock, where the retirement of Mr. Dunlop makes a vacancy for the new Parliament. Mr. Christie is for vote by ballot and for Mr. Coleridge's University Bill, and "will willingly vote for the disestablishment and disendowment of the Irish Church." He is for entire religious equality. He says: "The power of the aristocracy in the House of Commons has been too strong. The claims of labour and poverty must be more attended to. I hope that future legislation will be more equally mindful than the past has always been of the rights of toil, skill, and enterprise, and of those of landed possession and of capital; and that future legislations will be less spoilt by aristocratic influences, favouritism, and evil effects of party government."

DUDLEY.—The principal agent of the Earl of Dudley is spoken of as likely to contest this borough against Mr. H. B. Sheridan.

EAST STAFFORD.—Mr. J. R. M'Lean, a gentleman connected with various industrial works in Staffordshire, will stand for the eastern division of the county as a Liberal.

BOLTON.—The Liberals have resolved to bring forward Mr. Samuel Pope as a candidate in conjunction with Mr. Barnes, M.P. Mr. Pope was a candidate for this borough at the last election, and a confident belief is expressed that in the enlarged constituency the party will be able to return him along with Mr. Barnes.

CHESTER.—For the north-east division of this county the Liberals have resolved to invite Sir James Watts, of Abney Hall, Cheshire, and Mr. Thomas Ashton, of Hyde, to come forward. In the Conservative interest, Mr. Legh, of Lyme, late member for South Lancashire, is spoken of.

WESTMINSTER.—Mr. Hamilton Hume writes to a contemporary, stating that there is no foundation for the report that ex-Governor Eyre is about to oppose

the re-election of Mr. Mill. The committee for securing the re-election of Mr. Mill is both numerous and influential. Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Cardwell, Mr. Milner Gibson, Earl Grosvenor, and Mr. Layard are among its members. It is already some hundreds strong, and on its list are found Mr. Chichester Fortescue, Mr. Goschen, Mr. Kinnaid, Baron Rothschild, Mr. G. O. Trevelyan, Mr. Lyulph Stanley, Professor Fawcett, Captain Hayter, Mr. Coleridge, Mr. Leveson-Gower, Professor Cairnes, Mr. Serjeant Parry, Lord Alfred Churchill, Professor Huxley, Mr. Herbert Spencer, Sir Harry Verney, the Hon. Auberon Herbert, and many others.

DEVON.—Lord Courtenay, who now represents the city of Exeter, will, at the ensuing election, contest the southern division of Devon in the Conservative interest. In this event Mr. Peter Merrick Hoare will, it is confidently stated, be invited to be put in nomination for the seat vacated by Mr. Courtenay.

FROME.—It is understood in this borough, whose constituency will be increased by 1,000, that the sitting member, Sir Henry Rawlinson, will be opposed by Mr. Walmersley, of Standerwick Court, Somerset, in the Conservative interest.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.—It is in contemplation to invite Mr. Richard Fothergill, ironmaster, Aberdare, to become a candidate for this county in the Liberal interest. The county is now represented by two Conservatives, Colonel Somerset and Mr. Octavius Morgan, but it is believed that when the new electors are placed on the register, the Liberals are certain to secure one of the seats.

NORTHUMBERLAND (NORTH).—The Liberals are taking measures to procure a suitable candidate to contest one seat at least in this division at the next election. They consider that the new votes will so strengthen their ranks as to render the election of a Liberal member a matter of little difficulty.

CORNWALL (EAST).—Mr. Robartes has issued a valedictory address. Sir John Trelawny has issued an address inviting the electors to return him as Mr. Robartes' successor. He approves of household suffrage, but repudiates the ballot, deeming notoriety the best security for the unfettered performance of an elector's duty. He advocates perfect freedom for all religious beliefs, the disestablishment and disendowment of the Irish Church, and Country Finance Boards.

EAST SURREY.—It is announced that the Hon. W. Broderick and Mr. W. Peck will contest the division in the Conservative interest.

GLASGOW.—Colonel Sir Archibald Alison, the son of the late distinguished sheriff of Lanarkshire, has been spoken of as a candidate for the additional seat conferred upon Glasgow.

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE.—Lord Hyde, eldest son of the Earl of Clarendon, is mentioned as a probable Liberal candidate.

SUNDERLAND.—A meeting of working men was held on Tuesday night for the purpose of devising means for promoting the election of Mr. E. T. Gourlay. The principal object sought in the return of Mr. Gourlay is to promote the Permissive Bill as a Parliamentary question. A committee, consisting exclusively of working men, was appointed to aid in canvassing the electors.

LIMERICK.—It is confidently asserted that Mr. Peter Tait, mayor of Limerick and of London, will stand.

LONDON.—Mr. R. N. Fowler, who is the head of the Constitutional party in the City of London, will, it is said, come forward in the Conservative interest.

TOWER HAMLETS.—Mr. Ayrton is to be opposed by Mr. Beales; and Mr. Samuda, M.P., and Colonel Chambers are the candidates for the other seat.

ABERDEENSHIRE.—Mr. M'Combie, of Tillyfour, the noted breeder of black cattle, and a practical tenant farmer, is in the field as a candidate for the second seat to be given to the county of Aberdeen, with apparently good prospects, no opponent being yet announced. He declares himself favourable to disendowment of the Irish Church, and against the game laws and law of hypothec.

PRESTON.—A meeting was held at Preston on Wednesday night for the purpose of hearing an address from Mr. J. F. Leese. Mr. Leese announced himself as a Liberal, in favour of vote by ballot and of compulsory education. He is opposed to the continuance of the Irish Church Establishment, would abolish university tests, and advocates the policy of non-intervention in the affairs of foreign states. A resolution pledging the meeting to support Mr. Leese was adopted.

LEEDS.—A numerously attended meeting of representatives of various reform branches in the Leeds district, and also of members of various trades, was held on Tuesday night, in the Civil Court, Town Hall, Leeds, to discuss the question of the selection of a working class representative in the new Parliament. A resolution approving of Mr. Alderman Carter as the working men's candidate was adopted, and a deputation was appointed to wait upon him, and seek his consent to have his name submitted to a general meeting. Mr. Baines, M.P., has been selected unanimously by the Liberal Registration Association as one of the candidates for this borough. The *Leeds Mercury* says:—

At a meeting of teetotalers and others, held on Saturday evening, it was determined to take the steps necessary to secure the election of a representative in favour of the Permissive Bill. The name of Mr. Ald. Tatham, the president of the Permissive Bill Association, was submitted for approval; but the candidature of Mr. Ald. Carter, who has also declared himself in favour of the bill, was proposed as an amendment. The meeting, by a small majority, preferred Mr. Tatham, and it is probable that that gentleman's name will be brought before the joint committee on Wednesday night. It is,

however, the opinion of all shades of Reformers that, in the face of the minority clause, it would be injudicious to start three in the Liberal interest, and there is the most favourable prospect of cordiality in the nomination of two candidates. The Conservatives have not made any sign, but it is understood that Mr. Boscroft, one of the sitting members, will be again nominated.

RICHMOND (YORKSHIRE) will lose one of its members. It is believed that Mr. M. Wyvill will retire, and Sir Roundell Palmer be returned, as the latter hon. gentleman is very popular with the constituency.

PORTSMOUTH.—A requisition is being signed, inviting the Mayor (Mr. R. E. Davies) to contest the borough at the next election. Mr. Davies is a Liberal.

BRIDPORT.—Mr. K. D. Hodgson (a Liberal) retires. By the Reform Act, Bridport will in future only return one member, and Mr. Hodgson will not create any split in the Liberal party by offering himself in opposition to the other member, Mr. T. A. Mitchell.

GLoucester.—It is authoritatively denied that Sir Samuel Baker will be a candidate for this borough, or desires to enter Parliament.

EDINBURGH.—Mr. Miller, of Leithen, has intimated his intention to come forward "as a candidate for the representation of the city as Mr. M'Laren's colleague." He is in due time to issue an address, stating his views.

KIDDERMINSTER.—Mr. Lea, a local carpet manufacturer, who has been selected as the Liberal candidate, has issued his address. He states that he shall give a general support to Mr. Gladstone, and expresses his hearty approval of the measure which he has initiated with respect to the Irish Church. He is in favour of "a sound secular education" for the poorest children of the country.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—On Monday night Mr. Stevenson, Mayor of South Shields, the only candidate as yet in the field for the seat of Mr. R. Ingham, addressed a large meeting of the constituents. A resolution in favour of Mr. Stevenson was carried by a large majority. A numerously-signed requisition has been presented to Mr. C. M. Palmer, at Whitley House, asking him to contest the seat against Mr. Stevenson.

Bewdley.—It is understood that Sir Thomas Winnington, who has represented the united boroughs of Bewdley and Stourport for a great many years, retires, and a public meeting has been held, the mayor in the chair, at which the following resolution was passed:—

That believing the Protestant Church of the United Kingdom of England and Ireland to be essential to the maintenance of the constitution of this country and the civil and religious liberty which we enjoy, we pledge ourselves not to support any candidate for the representation of this borough in Parliament who will not, by his votes in Parliament and otherwise, endeavour to maintain the United Church as now by law established, and particularly to oppose all measures for the disestablishment or disendowment of the Irish branch of such Church.

NOTTINGHAM.—Lord Amberley has intimated that it is not his intention to offer himself as a candidate for the representation of this borough. He is unwilling to risk dividing the Liberal interest, which was nearly happening at the last election, when he had least expected it. It is not known what course Mr. Bernal Osborne will take, but Sir R. Clifton is in the field, and Mr. Samuel Morley is a favourite candidate.

TYNEMOUTH.—Mr. Trevelyan, M.P., has unexpectedly announced that he shall not go through a contest for his seat. Mr. Thomas Eustace Smith, a well-known shipowner and shipbuilder, of Gosforth House, is announced as the Liberal candidate. Mr. Solomon Mease, of Cleveland House, a Wesleyan Methodist, is spoken of as the Conservative candidate.

SOUTH LANCASHIRE.—OPPOSITION TO MR. GLADSTONE.—A large and influential meeting was held at Newton, on Saturday last, of gentlemen resident in the West Derby and Salford Hundreds of South Lancashire, when it was unanimously resolved to contest Mr. Gladstone's seat at the coming election. The treasurer of the two committees reported that the circular issued had, without any canvas, produced more than the funds necessary for the purpose, and the names of the candidates were approved, subject to confirmation at an adjourned meeting to be held in a fortnight.—*Manchester Courier (Tory paper).*

YORKSHIRE (WEST RIDING).—There can be no doubt whatever, notwithstanding absurd rumours to the contrary, that the Liberal candidates for the Northern Division of the West Riding at the ensuing election will be Lord Frederick Cavendish and Sir Francis Crossley—Lord Frederick being connected with that division by his father's extensive estates in Craven and his residence at Bolton Abbey, and Sir Francis Crossley by his residence and property at Halifax. Of the Southern division we have no information, except that Mr. Henry F. Beaumont is expected to offer himself for re-election. There is no authority whatever for mentioning the name of Mr. Somerset Beaumont for any division of the county. No decision has been come to with reference to the candidates for the Eastern Division of the West Riding.—*Leeds Mercury.*

THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.

In the Isle of Wight wheat has been in ear for the last fortnight, and harvest there will, it is expected, commence in the middle of July. This will be unusually early. In Dorsetshire the hay harvest is now at full swing, the crop of meadow grass will be light, but the clover crop will be a good one. The late barley wants rain. The early and wall-fruit crops in the south of England are failures. The apples have suffered, but owing to the quantity of blossom there will, it is believed, be a fair crop. It

is estimated that, in the neighbourhood of Stamford, the yield of hay will not be more than half the quantity that would have been produced if there had been some genial rains last month.

A feeling of great anxiety is coming over the agricultural mind in consequence of the long continuance of hot and very dry weather. The bright prospects of the premature summer of April are fast disappearing, and the utter absence of all appearance of rain causes a very gloomy view of the future. Every part of the country is suffering alike from drought, and on the hills, where dependance is placed on tanks and ponds, there is now no water, and stock has to be driven for miles or water-led. It is stated the season has not been so forward and so dry since the year 1826. At Malton the Derwent is so short of water that the southern bed of the river is dry land, and people can cross to the island. For some days the temperature in the shade has exceeded 80 degrees. The effects on the crops and stocks are these:—The clover and hay crops have rapidly ripened—all are ready together, and are ready for cooking almost as soon as cut. They are forward, but light, especially hay, which has gone up in price greatly. The "fog" in the grass fields is nil. After the removal of the hay they are as brown as possible—quite burnt up. All lean stock, both sheep and beasts, have consequently fallen in price, there being no demand. The after-grass will take some time to recover itself. Farmers all complain that although wheat is so early it has shot small in the ear, and is short in the straw, and oats and barley are particularly short. There is not much complaint as to peas and beans, but potatoes (early) are very small. The winter crop want rain badly. The drought and the fly together have destroyed whole fields of turnips, and on the wolds a great part of the crop will have to be resown, and on the heavy lands the hard baked clods have prevented the sowing of the crop at all so far. Agricultural prospects are, therefore, not the most cheering just now. Prayers for rain were offered up in the Malton churches on Sunday.

The *Mark-lane Express*, in its review of the corn trade of the past week, says the heat has been too forcing on many light and high lands for the wheat, some Talavera in bloom being little more than two feet high, with the straw dying off too fast. Many farmers are, indeed, quite apprehensive of an unusually short gathering. Much of the spring corn also wants rain badly, but if the blooming time prove genial, we yet expect a full crop on the best lands. The weekly sales have again sunk, showing that neither the late high prices nor the more recent panic have brought forward any increase of home produce.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

The Queen and Court set out on their journey southward from Balmoral yesterday. Her Majesty will reside at Windsor Castle for a few weeks, and then visit Osborne. It is understood that the Queen will make a trip to Germany this autumn.

On Thursday the Queen paid a visit to Mr. McCombie, of Tillyfour, the celebrated breeder of cattle, and especially of the polled Aberdeenshire breed, said to be the finest in the world. The Scotch papers give the following particulars of the royal visit:—

For the purpose of inspection, most of the black cattle were concentrated in grass parks near the mansion house. In one park to the east there were upwards of seventy cows and heifers, many of them being prize winners. In one "beave" there were four well-known cows—Fancy, the first-prize winner at Inverness; Charlotte, the celebrated Paris cow, now seventeen years old, and perhaps as valuable as any animal in the herd, if we may judge from the fact that she has never been beaten; the Stirling prize cow; and Pride of Aberdeen, a well-known prize-taker. These animals go to Aberdeen next month to claim the gold medals of the Highland and Agricultural Society. There were also submitted for inspection six bullocks—two four-year olds, one three-year old, and three two-year olds—intended for the Christmas exhibitions next season. In a field to the east were grazing sixty black bullocks, the value of which could not be under 30*l.* a head; while to the west of the house there upwards of 100 all black polled, worth from 25*l.* to 25*l.* a head. Mr. McCombie had his cross-bred stock, numbering 100, at Craigevar, so that nothing but polled Aberdeenshires were to be seen about Tillyfour. These, it must be said, were a splendid sight; and the weather favoured their exhibition. The Queen, accompanied by the Duchess of Athole and Miss Macgregor, arrived at Tillyfour on Thursday, soon after five o'clock. Her Majesty drove in an open barouche, and alighted at the entrance to the mansion-house, where she was received by Mr. McCombie and his sister, Mrs. Auld. In the drawing-room her Majesty inspected the cups and medals of gold and silver gained by Tillyfour. There were fourteen cups and upwards of a hundred medals, which were viewed with very great interest, particularly the Albert Cup, gained by Mr. McCombie at Pooley, the last gift given by the late Prince Consort. The value of the prizes shown could not be less than 700 guineas. Her Majesty then visited the herd of polled cattle, accompanied by Mr. McCombie, and several times expressed her admiration of the well-known animals brought before her. The Stirling cow, Charlotte, and her daughters were specially brought into notice. Returning to the mansion-house, her Majesty was served with tea in the drawing-room. Before leaving she was shown the head of "Black Prince," the winner of the Smithfield Cup, which now graces Tillyfour's dining-room. After staying nearly an hour, the royal visitor left. Upwards of 300 black polled cattle were submitted to the Queen's inspection, and she evidently enjoyed the visit.

It is said that her Majesty has expressed a wish that the son of the late King Theodore shall be brought to and educated in this country.

A young African Princess has come to England for education. She is the Princess Florence Pepple, sister of the young King of Bonny.

It is thought that Parliament will adjourn about the 15th of July.

The Government, it is understood (says the *Scotsman*), have determined to proceed with the Electric Telegraph Bill. They will refer the bill to a select committee, and will make an extreme effort to pass the bill this session. The reason for this urgency is said to be that the purchase money must be increased by at least half-a-million sterling if the transfer is delayed twelve months through the state of business.

The *John Bull* understands that the second reading of the Suspensory Bill will probably be taken on the 25th instant in the House of Lords, and that the majority against it will be about 100.

We (*Pall Mall Gazette*) think we may state confidently that the Election Petitions and Corrupt Practices Bill will be proceeded with. A number of Liberal members are preparing to wait as a deputation on Mr. Disraeli to urge his proceeding with it, and to promise their co-operation; and the Prime Minister is understood to be willing to accede to the request.

At a meeting of the executive committee of the Edinburgh Reform League, held on Thursday night, a letter was read from Mr. Bright, M.P., expressing the hope that "all the reform associations in the kingdom will now move for the ballot," that system of voting being, in Mr. Bright's opinion, "an essential part of an honest representative system."

A meeting of the members of University College, London, is to be convened on the 4th of July next for the purpose of supplying the vacancy in the office of President of the Council occasioned by the death of the late President, Lord Brougham.

The *Owl* says Mr. Hardy is to have a peerage, but the *Globe* denies the statement, adding that Mr. Hardy will appeal to his constituency at the forthcoming election.

Progress is making in the arrangements for the Volunteer review by the Queen at Windsor next Saturday. So far as the Government offices are concerned, it will be a public holiday.

The Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse arrived in England on Monday on a visit to the Queen.

There has been much talk of the resignation by Lord Royston of his position as Controller of her Majesty's Household, in consequence of his negligent attendance in the House of Commons. The *Times* says his lordship still occupies the post. Probably he has promised better attendance in future.

Mr. Henry Vincent, the well-known English orator, arrived in the Scotia, on Saturday morning, after a long tour through the United States of America. He returns to the States in the autumn.

Sir Robert Napier is expected home within the next fortnight. Sir Robert, it is said, intends to stay in England but a few weeks, to settle various questions of expenditure with the India Office, after which he will return to Bombay.

Miscellaneous News.

GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL, CALEDONIAN-ROAD, N.—Number of patients for the week ending June 13, 1,261, of which 439 were new cases.

THE RIGHT OF WOMEN TO THE SUFFRAGE.—We published recently the announcement made by the overseers of Salford of their intention to place on the next Parliamentary list the names of all duly qualified females. The overseers of Bradford, on observing this, communicated with the Home Secretary, asking his opinion upon the point, and Mr. Hardy has replied, intimating that it is not his duty to give legal opinions as to the construction of Acts of Parliament, but adding that "it is clear Parliament did not intend to give votes to women."

REMARKABLE WILL.—Recently an old gentleman of very eccentric habits, Mr. John Younghusband, of Abbey Holme, Cumberland, died, and his will has proved to be of the most eccentric character. The Silloth Railway runs through part of his property, an arrangement to which he was passionately averse; and though years have elapsed since then, his bitterness was in no wise assuaged. In his will he leaves near £1,000 to a solicitor who opposed the making of the railway; the rest of his money he bequeaths to a comparative stranger upon these conditions—that the legatee never speaks to one of the directors of the railway, that he never travels upon it, that he never sends cattle or other traffic by it; and should he violate any of these conditions, the estate reverts to the ordinary succession. To Mr. John Irving, and the other directors of the Silloth line, Mr. Younghusband has sarcastically bequeathed a farthing!

MR. JUSTICE BLACKBURN'S CHARGE.—"One of the Grand Jury" says that the reopening of the case against ex-Governor Eyre, at least as far as argument is concerned, affords an opportunity for stating positively that Mr. Justice Blackburn's charge did produce its intended effect on the minds of a large majority of the grand jury, and served as the ostensible ground for their not finding a true bill on several of the counts of the indictment. The two points especially insisted on by the Lord Chief Justice—1st, that when the insurrection had been put down, and all resistance was over, the maintenance of the proclamation implicated Mr. Eyre in a criminal responsibility; and, 2nd, that the removal of Gordon and others to the proclaimed district for the purpose of subjecting them to martial law was illegal and unjustifiable—were in fact construed, under the direction of Mr. Justice Blackburn, in a totally different sense, by a great majority of the grand jury, who, not presumptively, but actually, relied on his

interpretation as their warrant for the decision they arrived at.

AN ELECTIONEERING DODGE.—A good illustration of the use to which a cleverly-devised canvassing paper may be put, is afforded by a paragraph which Mr. Inglis's supporters at Edinburgh have published. It appeared in Monday's *Times*, and ran thus:—"Mr. Thomas Carlyle has requested that his name be added to the list of those in favour of the Lord Justice General being elected Chancellor of the University." It appears that, in common with many other members of the University Council, Mr. Carlyle knew little of the claims or services of Mr. Inglis, which, whatever they may be, undoubtedly sprang from political partisanship; but it had been represented to Mr. Carlyle that Mr. Inglis, unlike his opponent, Mr. Gladstone, had done great actual service to the Scottish universities, that he was not professionally a politician, and especially that he was brought forward irrespective of party interests or prejudices, and therefore more entitled to "truly Liberal" and independent support. The real character of the contest has, however, displayed itself as a mere battle between local Whig and Tory factions, with a few hopeful waverers ranging themselves on either side, as they think fit and proper; and now Mr. Carlyle finds to his extreme annoyance that in writing after much solicitation, on the corner of a printed request, the words, "If I have a vote, of which I am somewhat doubtful, take T. Carlyle," he has unwittingly given his name for the purposes of a mere political clique whose aims and tactics he regards with aversion; and that it has been used in a manner and for purposes which he repudiates.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

MR. MILL, M.P., ON THE EYRE TRIAL.—The daily papers have published a letter which has been addressed by Mr. John Stuart Mill, M.P., to one of his constituents, with reference to the action of the Jamaica Committee against Mr. Eyre. The letter deals calmly but firmly with the question. Mr. Mill says, that prior to the events in Jamaica, his personal feelings were favourable towards Mr. Eyre, but the manner in which Mr. Eyre has sought to shelter himself under any shield whatever against a judicial examination, and his conduct since his return to England, appears to him to show a callousness to human suffering and a contempt for his fellow men which alone go far to show his utter unfitness for any station of authority over them. If human sympathies, however, could be cast aside altogether, the importance of instituting a judicial inquiry would still be paramount. "If," says Mr. Mill, "the majority of any nation were willing to allow such events to pass unquestioned, I have no hesitation in saying that all the ties of civil society would in that nation be at the mercy of accident. There would be no principle in the minds of men to bind civilised society together. Happily I am fully convinced that the great majority of the English nation does desire judicial inquiry into these events. Were I not so convinced I should be ashamed of my country." He considers himself called upon as an Englishman to protest against what he believes to be an infringement of the laws of England, and he adds—"The humblest and obscurest English man or woman, animated with that respect for law and love of liberty on which the greatness of England has been founded in the past and depends in the future, ought, in my opinion, to contribute their part towards a calm and legal settlement of the question" raised by the proceedings against Mr. Eyre.

THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY ON "JUVENILE LITERATURE."—At the annual meeting of the George-yard Ragged Schools, Whitechapel, the Earl of Shaftesbury, who presided, remarked that one advantage of the system of teaching adopted in these schools was, that it tended to counteract the pernicious results arising from the perusal of what had been called the "juvenile literature" of the day. The character of this literature was now ten times more pernicious than in days gone by. Formerly works of this kind disgusted most minds by their flagrant sensuality, whilst now they were constructed with Satanic ingenuity. It was only when the poison had thoroughly done its work that its evil effects could be traced. He lamented to find that the sale of these publications was growing more and more general, and that they were now to be purchased at shops outside which placards, announcing the works of the "Pure Literature Society," were exhibited. In one case to his knowledge the shop-keeper, on being remonstrated with, urged that the sale of these publications was so large that to refuse to supply them would involve the loss of half his trade. In their pages everything was done to render crime heroic, and an object worthy of imitation. The commission of the most monstrous of crimes was seized upon with avidity, as furnishing an opportunity for publishing a glowing description, illustrated by an engraving in a high style of art. (A laugh.) After alluding to the case of two juvenile criminals, whose career in crime he had reason to know dated from the perusal of these pernicious works, the noble earl proceeded to contend that some repressive measures were a matter of absolute necessity with regard to the publication of serials which had so demoralising an influence upon the mind. Unless some steps were taken, the inevitable tendency of their perusal would be to render the people of this country a seething mass of sedition. In a subsequent portion of his address his lordship observed that the time was rapidly approaching when a system of compulsory education would be introduced under authority; and as any such system must of necessity be one wholly free from any religious connection, it behoved all to use their utmost endeavours so to instruct the people in the great evangelical truths as would make them drive back any such proposition with disgust and indignation. (Loud cheers.)

Literature.

ESTABLISHED CHURCH POLICY.*

I.

That the whole constitution and framework of the Established Church are gradually breaking up needs no prophet's insight and no miraculous power of observation to see. The old Tudor and Stuart body cannot contain the spirit of the Victorian age. Wherever there is life in the Church there is dissatisfaction with its present relations to modern thought and modern modes of external action. We do not think, however, that this dissatisfaction has ever been exhibited in such an emphatic manner as it is in this every way most remarkable volume, a volume written by men who have some discernment, at least, of the signs of the times, and who read them with the best of all powers, that of pure Christian feeling and unadulterated Christian charity.

The essays in this volume, eight in number, are as follows:—

I. The Church and the Working Classes. By the Rev. J. W. Fowle, M.A., Church of Holy Trinity, Hoxton.

II. The Voluntary Principle. By the Rev. J. L. Davies, M.A., Rector of Christ Church, Marylebone.

III. On Clerical Liberty of Thought and Speech. By the Editor (the Rev. W. L. Clay, Incumbent of Rainhill, Lancashire).

IV. The Church and the Universities. By the Rev. W. Berkeley, M.A., Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford, and Vicar of Navestock, Essex.

V. The Church and the Congregation. By the Rev. E. A. Abbott, M.A., Head Master of the City of London School.

VI. The Church and the Education of the People. By the Editor.

VII. The Church in the Colonies. By John Westlake, M.A., Barrister.

VIII. The Church as a Teacher of Morality. By J. R. Seeley, M.A.

There can be little doubt that the subjects we have here enumerated are those which are forcing themselves with increasing weight upon the attention of a large class of thoughtful Churchmen, of whom the writers of this volume may be taken to be representatives. These are discussed, with one exception, by the Essayists, with a candour of judgment, a truthfulness of spirit, and a breadth of view to which it is almost impossible to do adequate justice; and, in case we should forget to say it in the proper place, we will now say that we have never met, in the writings of any Churchmen, with such justice—we may almost say with such generosity—of spirit towards Dissent and Dissenters, as we find exhibited in these essays. It is not merely refreshing, it is exhilarating, to come into contact with Churchmen of the order of these men. It is true that they do not see with us, but they have moral qualities which infinitely transcend identity of opinion. They would see with us if they could, they will when they can, and they will say so as soon as, if ever, this takes place. They are men of large charity, of transparent honesty, and of great moral courage. We only regret that, in the brief space of our review, we can do so little justice to their works.

The editor says, that the purpose of this volume is "to discuss, with special reference to the circumstances of the present time, the principles upon which the Church of England may be sustained as a National Church, and the modes of action by which her National character may be further developed." It is well to begin, in such a programme, with the working classes. Mr. Fowle, the writer of the essay upon this topic, whose name is already favourably known to our readers in connexion with his educational work at Hoxton, concedes, at the outset, that the Establishment has failed to attract the working classes, but he thinks that the question is of importance more as it respects Christianity, than as it respects the Establishment alone. This tone, in fact, colours nearly all the volume, and we feel that we are in the presence of men who would really abandon Establishments if they could be convinced that the cause of Christianity would be advanced by their abandonment. Mr. Fowle says, truly, that the prevailing sentiment of the working classes with respect to religion may be summed up in one word—indifference, but he does not inquire how it is that they have become indifferent. We should have thought that an analysis of causes might have suggested remedies, but Mr. Fowle does not take this course. He evolves out of his own moral consciousness the theory that the idea of an Established Church is essentially a

democratic one; that attendance at public worship is essentially a part of democratic religion; that the clergy and the democracy are naturally friends and allies; and that the Christian revelation is one eminently suited to a democracy. At the same time, and in the same sentences, Mr. Fowle contrasts theory with fact, as that the working classes have no affection for the Established Church of England; that they do not attend public worship; that there is no friendship or alliance between the Anglican clergy and the working classes, and that the latter are indifferent to the claims of the Christian revelation. Now, how comes all this to pass? We are sorry to say, that in our judgment, Mr. Fowle fails to answer this question, and he fails for the simple reason that he ignores all history. It is very easy—nothing is easier—than to talk of the Demos, and so on, but it is less easy for a Churchman to answer the question—What has been the exhibition of Christianity by the Established religion of the nation, that the working or any other class should care for it? What is it at the present moment? There is, however, plain speech in this essay, and many hints which both Churchmen and Dissenters may treasure up. And when we get into the broader track there is admirable writing, such as the following:—

"God in His providence has given us the Christian religion, that a moral influence more powerful than poetry, or art, or freedom itself, may be brought to bear upon the 'sons and daughters of toil'; may cheer and alleviate their lot, may sanctify their daily work. These considerations will suggest to us the direction in which the new Reformation should be guided. By teaching religion as obedience to a Living Person, whose work and character has been revealed in history, we can appeal to the best instincts of the working man, his susceptibility of personal influence, his enthusiastic loyalty towards those in whom he trusts, an imagination easily interested, affections readily enlisted by the account of noble things well done and bravely suffered. We must proclaim that Christ is Head and King not merely of the Church, but of the world; that He has a direct interest in scientific as in religious progress, in civilisation as in evangelisation; that, in a sense of which a timid religiousness never dreamt, the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of God and of His Christ. We must insist upon the truth that work is part of the religion which man owes to the King of men. We must hallow the occupation of manual labour, just as the professions of medicine or justice are hallowed, by a thousand Christian associations. We must vindicate for mechanical toil the same intimate connection with religious ideas that has ever bound together religion and the calling of the shepherd or the farmer; and we must see in the factory, no less than in the vineyard or the corn-field, a true picture of the eternal relations between God and man. And we must look forward, in however remote a future, to a state of things in which it shall not seem unnatural or absurd, to think of the Church as having discovered America, or of the world as having built Westminster Abbey."

After all, this is somewhat better than the "Evangelical" style of presenting religion to the working man in the shape of ecclesiastical fees and Church-rates.

The second essay, on the "Voluntary Principle," is less wide in its application than might be imagined from its title. It is almost exclusively confined to the discussion of the question whether there is more liberty of thought in the Established Church or amongst the Free Churches? The writer maintains with great ability, and frequently with success, the superior advantages of clergymen in this respect, and when he deals with the case of Trust-deeds we feel that we have not much to say in reply to him. Mr. Davies, however, forgets two things—first, that systematised creeds are an accident of the voluntary system, and that they have indeed no necessary connection with it. They are a reflection not of the voluntary principle, but of something wholly different. And secondly, Mr. Davies forgets that the creeds of the Free Churches are not compulsory. They are as various as the modes of thought, and are expressed in as various manners. In the Establishment the creed is compulsory, and its words the same to all classes of men. With us a minister may fit himself, and even if he have not liberty to break an honourable engagement he may give it up and find another that may fully suit his spiritual necessities. We have all of us the same belief in Christianity, with varying modes of expressing that belief—modes that are fruits or flowers of the intellectual growth of the nation. We have liberty to differ, and we respect each other's differences. In the Church, on the contrary, at least so it seems to us, there is practical liberty without the moral liberty—liberty, that is to say, assumed in spite of self-assumed law. Mr. Davies writes of the voluntary principle, meaning the power to do as "one likes" in matters of religion. That is a gross form of putting the question; but after all is it not better, morally, to do as one likes than to do what everybody else likes? There are two sketches in this essay of the personal growth of the individual Churchman and the individual Dissenter. There is the greatest desire to be fair in this sketch, but what will

our readers say to it? We quote it for their edification:—

"Now let us consider the circumstances of a born Nonconformist with reference to spiritual freedom. Let B, our representative Dissenter, be born of pious Congregationalist parents. B, like A, is baptized in his early infancy. That is, he inherits his religion from his parents. The tendency to regard baptism as an act of dedication, dependent for its virtue upon the faith and prayers of the parents, rather than as a divinely-authorised act of admission to a spiritual kingdom, makes the religion of the young Nonconformist more expressly hereditary than that of the Churchman. Congregationalists have a creed which they have received from their fathers; and though they have not formulated it as a symbol binding on all who claim to belong to their denomination, they consider it a matter of the highest importance that the doctrines of their creed should be held purely and strongly. The theological authorities of Congregationalism are peculiarly dogmatic. As the society professes to be based upon agreement in opinion, it is natural that opinions should come into prominence. The child B, therefore, is strictly brought up in the religious doctrines of the society. These are what are commonly called Evangelical,—such as the acceptance of the Bible as a complete and final authority, the doctrines of the Trinity and the Incarnation, the necessity of conversion and the hopeless future of those who die unconverted, and reverence for the Sabbath day. The external objects which the children of Evangelical denominations are brought up to worship with an unquestioning reverence are the Bible and the Sabbath day; but in societies which divide mankind into the two sections of the converted and the unconverted, so long as religious fervour remains, the necessity of conversion is the dogma which will spread like a ferment over youthful life. B is taught that the Church of Christ consists of the truly converted, and that he must hope and pray to be converted himself. Till this change takes place, he is not in the Church, and can have no hope of salvation. It cannot be said that the principle of free choice is comforted or flattered in him. He may choose for himself;—but if he does, he is lost. His one hope is to submit to God's choice of him, and to consent to be taken by God's guidance through the strait gate along the narrow way. There is a stern grandeur in this teaching and discipline, but it is sufficiently imperious."

"B is taken regularly to chapel, and becomes by degrees acquainted with the constitution of the Congregationalist society. He learns that those whose worship he joins are not one body, but two. There is the 'Church,' and the congregation outside the 'Church.' The Church consists of those who after due profession and inquiry are accepted as true believers. The Church is what is called a close corporation; it admits into its own body. In practice there are various degrees of stringency in the examination to be passed, according to the strictness or laxity of the Church. But it is always necessary to make a personal profession of being a believer, and to satisfy the Church, in the person of its representatives, that the profession is genuine. The theory of the Church therefore is that it is the body of the regenerate, separated from the World. It is the holy society taken out from an unholy people. It is the business of all who are in earnest to keep this society from any admixture of the world, by a due proscribing of one another to love and good works, and by a rigorous exclusion of unworthy elements."

"It may without offence be taken as certain, that the young Nonconformist will not find either the characters of the persons with whom he becomes acquainted, or the language and behaviour of his parents concerning such persons, correspond precisely with the theoretical distinction between the Church and the World. Church members, we know, do not all commend themselves as childlike Christians; nor can all the unconverted be easily regarded as belonging to the ungodly. But this distinction is that which peculiarly offers itself as the glory of his denomination to the religiously educated Dissenter. He will be conversant with arguments in favour of this distinction drawn from its usefulness in promoting religion; but the great support of it is the authority of the New Testament. It is this which overpowers many difficulties in the eyes of the Evangelical denominations which desire above all things to be Scriptural. When B therefore arrives at years of discretion, his society questions him, 'Are you converted, or are you not?' If you say you hope you are, we will do our best to determine whether you have judged rightly, and we will gladly admit you, if approved, into our communion. If you do not claim to be born again, or if we have serious doubts whether you are, you must remain for the present outside.' B, in his position as a Congregationalist, cannot evade this inquiry and alternative. Either he must go through the narrow portal, professing precisely the creed handed down in the society, and consenting to have his convictions and his motives probed by the authorities of the society, or the Church will not know him as a member, and in many cases will not call him a Christian."

"But if we are to go further with B as a genuine Nonconformist, we must suppose him to have become a Church member. And then he begins to share in various powers,—especially in one of the greatest importance in a religious community,—that of appointing and paying and deposing his pastor. But he carries out his will in this and other matters on one condition—that he go with the majority or carry the majority with him. If he is in the minority, it appears that his liberty consists in voting in the minority. It appears also that the chapels in which particular congregations meet, and which are valuable property, are apt to be protected by trust-deeds which are drawn up with a view to the preservation of purity of doctrine; and some Voluntarists see in such trust-deeds an intrusion of the establishment principle. But apart from any difficulty on this score, the majority of a Church have, according to the Congregationalist constitution, great freedom to make the Church what they like, by engaging a minister to their mind, by admitting into their corporation members who sympathise with them, and by excluding those who may seem to them of a different spirit."

"This form of power is what is chiefly meant by the voluntary principle. It is the power of a close corporation to exercise inexpressible control by the vote of the greater number in matters relating to their own faith and worship. It is the power of the majority, applied directly and immediately in a society not numbering more than a few hundreds. Against this power indi-

* *Essays on Church Policy.* Edited by the Rev. W. L. CLAY, M.A. Macmillans.

viduals have no appeal. The alternative offered them, if they are unwilling to submit to the majority, is that of breaking off and forming another society."

Next week we will deal with the remaining essays in this volume, which will demand further space than that already occupied.

THE EARLY ITALIAN PAINTERS.*

This is a book already extensively known as one of the productions of the late Mrs. Jameson, and combines in a brief and exceedingly attractive form, the merits which distinguish the larger works of the same accomplished lady. It recalls the fine insight and justness and beauty of thought of her "Characteristics of Women," as well as the great knowledge and critical discrimination of her "Sacred and Legendary Art." The portraits which enrich it—fifty-eight in number, and each with a leaf to itself—offer in themselves a very interesting study of genius and character in physiognomy. Biographical in form, and abounding in biographical incident, the volume is at the same time a useful handbook of the rise and progress of painting in Italy, and its principal epochs. It is an expanded and improved recast of a series of sketches which were for the first time printed in a collected form in two of "Knight's Weekly Volumes," and which, if we are not mistaken, originally appeared separately and at intervals in an earlier periodical issued by the same enterprising publisher. After playing a useful part in their anonymous and more unpretending shape, towards awakening an interest in art, and stimulating the appetite for knowledge in general, these essays have been moulded more recently into somewhat more connected sequence and unity, besides being in various ways enriched and amplified. The references to examples have been made, wherever it was possible, to our National Gallery; and "the author has profited," we are told, "by two recent visits to Italy, and more particularly by the last excellent edition of Vasari, to add several new biographies, and to render these memoirs altogether not only more interesting, but sufficiently accurate, considering their comprehensive and popular form, not to mislead the inexperienced student on questions relating to particular pictures and individual artists, which remain to be settled."

We should like, in our quotations, to make such a choice of extracts as may exemplify not only the character and style of the composition in general, but Mrs. Jameson's pleasant manner of telling a story, her appreciative estimates of different kinds of imaginative power, and the straightforward and concise way in which she handles matters of fact.

"About the year 1260, when Cimabue was already old and at the height of his fame, as he was riding in the valley of Vespignano, about fourteen miles from Florence, his attention was attracted by a boy who was herding sheep, and who, while his flocks were feeding around, seemed intently drawing on a smooth fragment of slate, with a bit of pointed stone, the figure of one of his sheep as it was grazing before him. Cimabue rode up to him, and, looking with astonishment at the performance of the untutored boy, asked him if he would go with him and learn; to which the boy replied—that he was right willing, if his father were content. The father, a herdsman of the valley, by name Bon-done, being consulted, gladly consented to the wish of the noble stranger, and Giotto henceforth became the intimate and pupil of Cimabue.

Giotto appeared; and almost from the beginning of his career, he not only deviated from the practice of the older painters, but stood opposed to them. He not only improved, he changed; he placed himself on wholly new ground. He took up those principles which Niccolò Pisano had applied to sculpture, and went to the same sources, to nature, and to those remains of pure antique art which showed him how to look at nature. His residence at Rome, while yet young, and in all the first glowing development of his creative powers, must have had an incalculable influence on his after works. Deficient to the end of his life in the knowledge of form, he was deficient in that kind of beauty which depends on form: but his feeling for grace and harmony in the airs of his heads and the arrangement of his groups was exquisite; and the longer he practised his art, the more free and flowing became his lines. But, beyond grace and beyond beauty, he aimed at the expression of natural character and emotion, in order to render intelligible his newly invented scenes of action and his religious allegories."

The only fault we have to find with this beautiful and agreeable book is that, in the present edition, there are no pictorial illustrations, except portraits of painters. In the earlier editions this was not the case. The portraits were fewer, but there were a considerable number of engravings in wood, for the most part in outline, of important works mentioned in the text, or of larger or smaller portions of these. Small and comparatively homely as the engravings were, some of them

were very beautiful, and a still greater number very suggestive. We regret especially, for example, the absence of a cut of Giotto's portrait of Dante in his youth (very recently disinterred at Florence from under a thick coat of white-wash), and a group of angels from Ghiberti's famous doors of San Giovanni. What makes the omission in the latter case more tantalising, is that the reference still remains in the text, while the thing referred to has vanished. By some curious inadvertence, the following note still appears, while the angels have disappeared. "The angels in the woodcut are a perfect example of this grace and simplicity." The work is delightful and instructive as it stands, but the rejected illustrations, independently of the direct enjoyment which they supplied, afforded real and valuable assistance in tracing the progress of art in its gradual extrication from Byzantine types, and other traditional restraints, and then from Cimabue and Giotto onward to the point of culmination so well described in the following paragraph:—

"We now approach the period when the art of painting reached its highest perfection, whether considered with reference to poetry of conception, or the mechanical means through which these conceptions were embodied in the noblest forms. Within a short period of about thirty years, between 1490 and 1520, the greatest painters whom the world has yet seen were living and working together. On looking back we cannot but feel that the excellence they attained was the result of the efforts and aspirations of a preceding age, and yet these men were so great in their vocation, and so individual in their greatness, that, losing sight of the linked chain of progress, they seemed at first to have had no precursors, as they have since had no peers. Though living at the same time, and most of them in personal relation with each other, the direction of each mind was different—was peculiar; though exercising in some sort a reciprocal influence, this influence never interfered with the most decided originality. These wonderful artists, who would have been remarkable men in their time though they had never touched a pencil, were Leonardo da Vinci, Michael Angelo, Raphael, Correggio, Giorgione, Titian in Italy; and in Germany, Albert Durer. Of these men we might say, as of Homer and Shakespeare, that they belong to no particular age or country, but to all time, and to the universe. That they flourished together within one brief and brilliant period, and that each carried out to the highest degree of perfection, his own peculiar aim, was no casualty; nor are we to seek for the causes of this surpassing excellence merely in the history of the art as such. The causes lay far deeper, and must be referred to the history of human culture."

In a somewhat copious sketch of the history of Raphael Sanzio and his works, Mrs. Jameson does not trouble herself to spy out that glorious painter's limitations, or to conjecture how much greater he might have become had his short life been lengthened, or had his ideas of the invisible and eternal world been juster than they were, more comprehensive and more spiritual. The wonder is, that surrounded by influences so naturalistic, not to say pagan, he should have been so deeply penetrated as he was, with some at least of the most exalted and inspiring ingredients of the New Testament record; that he should have succeeded (if we may borrow a comparison) in embodying so much of the golden contents of the religion of Christ, within the silver shell of classical perfection of form; and that he should have made an addition so large and so enduring, to our conceptions of womanly purity and tenderness, and of the boundless capabilities of expression which belong to the human countenance, or rather to the human frame as a whole. The following account of the cartoons was of course written, as the closing sentence shows, before their removal from Hampton Court. It is preceded by an equally condensed narrative of the fate of the tapestries for which the cartoons were designs for the weavers to work from:—

"While all Rome was indulging in ecstasies over the rich and dearly paid tapestries, which were not then, and are still less now, worth one of the cartoons, these precious productions of the artist's own mind were lying in the warehouse at Arras, neglected and forgotten. Some were torn into fragments, and parts of them exist in various collections. Seven still remained in some garret or cellar, when Rubens, just a century afterwards, mentioned their existence to Charles I. and advised him to purchase them for the use of a tapestry manufactory which King James I. had established at Mortlake. The purchase was made. They had been cut into long slips about two feet wide, for the convenience of the workmen, and in this state they arrived in England. On Charles's death, Cromwell bought them at the sale of the royal effects for 300l. We had very nearly lost them again in the reign of Charles II., for Louis XIV. having intimated, through his ambassador, Barillon, a wish to obtain them at any price, the needy, careless Charles was on the point of yielding them, and would have done so but for the representations of the Lord Treasurer Danby, to whom, in fact, we owe it that they were not ceded to France. They remained, however, neglected in one of the lumber-rooms at Whitehall till the reign of William III., and narrowly escaped being destroyed by fire when Whitehall was burned in 1698. It must have been shortly afterwards that King William ordered them to be repaired, the fragments pasted together and stretched on linen, and being just at that time occupied with the alterations and improvements at Hampton Court, Sir Christopher Wren had his commands to plan and erect a room expressly to receive them—the room in which they now hang."

None of Mrs. Jameson's writings are more

secure of a large circulation than this readable and compact octavo, and we speak with a view to the advantage of our readers themselves, when we recommend them by no means to lose sight of it. For any friend whose tastes lie in the direction either of painting or of biography it would be a most acceptable half-guinea present on a wedding-day or birthday. Or in a journey to the Art Exhibition at Leeds, such a volume, to any one who might choose to buy it on the occasion, would be an instructive and congenial companion by the way, and tolerably sure of a good place afterwards on the shelves of its possessor.

BRIEF NOTICES.

Essays on Robert Browning's Poetry. By JOHN T. NETTLESHIP. (London: Macmillan and Co.) Mr. NettleSHIP has evidently studied Browning carefully; but his volume will neither delight those who value Browning's poems, nor prepare those who find them obscure for appreciating them. In the first place, there is too much of NettleSHIP, too little of Browning. The "fine writing" which may be tolerated in a student's prize essay, is emphatically out of place in essays on Browning's poetry. The simple images of the poet are often marred in these papers by being incongruously grouped with other images they have suggested to Mr. NettleSHIP. We doubt, moreover, if Mr. NettleSHIP has taken the right way to unfold Robert Browning's thought. Though his poems are full of philosophy, Browning is essentially an artist; and to disregard the artistic form is to fail to apprehend Browning. Browning, again, is a dramatist, and although as Mr. NettleSHIP says, "the fabric of his works is invariably sustained by a master-thread of subjectiveness"; to attempt to separate that thread is to destroy the fabric. What at first appears like a glorious wilfulness in Browning is seen, on further acquaintance with him, to be the richness of a nature full of sympathy and therefore quick and clear of apprehension. Browning's discursiveness is not an incident of his style, still less a fault; his side-glances all help to the fuller or more definite apprehension of his main theme. Mr. NettleSHIP by detaching Browning's thoughts from the form in which he has embodied them,—aiming to expound his philosophy without taking note of his art,—has not only deprived them of their greatest charm, he has deprived them of much of their effectiveness as teachings. Perhaps, however, the defect is in Mr. NettleSHIP's apprehension rather than in his method. The stilted paper on "Saul" seems to declare that the profound moral teaching of the poet has not even been seen by his expositor.

Gatherings from a Ministry. By the Rev. JOHN MILNE, Perth. (James Nisbet and Co.) By very many of his own congregation, we doubt not this selection from Mr. Milne's sermons will be welcomed and highly esteemed. Their pleasure in reading at their leisure discourses which they have listened to with satisfaction, will be more or less enhanced by the excellence of the paper and the type, and the generally dignified and handsome appearance of the volume. For ourselves, we cannot say that we are very much attracted by its contents. There are some things which we like in the sermons, and there are some which we neither like, nor feel at liberty to commend. We do not admire comparisons, even in the way of contrast, between the tears of the Saviour, and the anguish of lost souls. We more than doubt the advantage—indeed, the propriety, of transferring the amorous phrases of the Song of Solomon to spiritual affections. To the samples of Mr. Milne's preaching, are appended a few specimens of his versification. Several of these show traces of unaffected pathos, and contain just, if not very striking thoughts. Such a couplet as the following, may perhaps be explained by the tendency of a constant use of the Scottish metrical version of the Psalms, to deaden one's perception of the way in which the beauty and force of a Scriptural expression may be transformed and lowered in the process of putting it into rhyme:

"But he knoweth our frame, He knoweth our fears,
He knows all our wanderings, and bottles our tears."

The Parables of our Lord Explained and Applied. By the Rev. FRANCIS BOURDILLON, M.A., Rector of Woolbeding, Sussex. (The Religious Tract Society.) More than thirty years ago another work, with almost exactly the same title as this, used to appear on the lists of the Religious Tract Society, and had, we believe, a large sale then and afterwards. Naturally enough, the council of that religious and literary organisation are willing to avail themselves, after so considerable an interval, of the results of a fresh experiment on the same sacred and inexhaustible materials. It remains to be seen whether the new book will or will not, like the original "Parables Explained," be adopted and made use of extensively in the United States, as well as circulated among French Protestants in a French translation. Meanwhile, Mr. Bourdillon's work appears to us to be a very excellent one of its kind. It displays no remarkable imaginative ability in placing the action and scenery of a parable before the mind of the reader, and it is only the more obvious practical applications of any lesson which are indicated. But whatever is undertaken, is done honestly and well. The interpretations seem to us in the main almost always just, the style is simple and equal, and the pervading spirit to mpe

* *Memoirs of Early Italian Painters, and of the Progress of Painting in Italy, Cimabue to Bassano.* By Mrs. JAMESON, Author of "Sacred and Legendary Art." A New Edition, with Portraits. London: John Murray.

and sensible, without being unspiritual or apathetic. We are not acquainted with any book which deserves so well to take a place among works of a purely popular kind, analogous to the rank which Archbishop Trench's volume holds in the libraries of theological students. It will be particularly valuable for family reading, and to Sunday-school teachers.

A Household Book of English Poetry. Selected and Arranged, with Notes, by RICHARD CHENEVIX TRENCH, D.D., Archbishop of Dublin. (London: Macmillan and Co.) This book is an excellent companion-volume to Mr. Palgrave's "Golden Treasury." It differs from that volume in not being limited to any particular class of poetry, and in only giving a selection from the good writings of English poets, living and dead. We may add, that Archbishop Trench has not the scrupulous taste of Mr. Palgrave. A few of the poems in this volume are not worthy of their place. On the whole, however, the selection is good; it contains some very choice specimens of English verse, some of them too being but little known. The moral tone of the poems is, as becomes a "Household Book," uniformly high. For a selection of English verse to put upon the family shelf, or to slip into a portmanteau on a holiday journey, next to Mr. Palgrave's "Golden Treasury," we should recommend this.

The Pearl of Parables; Notes on Luke xv. 11-32. By the late JAMES HAMILTON, D.D. (London: J. Nisbet and Co.) This is Dr. Hamilton's last work. The title, taken from Stier, was chosen by him not long before his death. Those who knew Hamilton will catch the tones of his voice and feel his gentle influence in every line of the book. Nothing he has written perhaps is more characteristic of him than this. It is full of tender persuasiveness; it abounds in the charity that hopeth all things and thinketh no evil. In following out the suggestions of the parable of the prodigal son, he has chosen to dwell much more on the peaceful home and the preserving and restoring influences of household piety, than on the fall and degradation of the prodigal. These he has lightly touched on; in speaking of household sanctities, his whole soul expands itself. This volume is not an exposition of the parable, it takes up the story and follows out various lines of fancy suggested by it to a man who has known the blessed influence of a pious family, and has had much acquaintance with the perils of young strangers in a great city. Fancy and feeling are appealed to as, with deep persuasiveness and kind fidelity, the preacher seeks to apply the lessons of the Bible to the consciences of young men of the present day. There is a charm about the blending of Oriental and English life; the very discursiveness of the style, if only one or two chapters are read at a time, has its attractiveness and use. Hamilton has, unintentionally, but perhaps not altogether unconsciously, portrayed himself in one of the pictures of this volume. Speaking of "men whose mind has not more than one faculty, and whose creed is contained in a single saying"; he adds, "There are others to whom the whole manifestation of God comes welcome, and who in the sixty-six books of the Bible, and in the long annals of our human history, as well as in the large panorama of creation, recognising the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the light of God's countenance pursue their daily task, and fill up with numberless pursuits and experiences an existence all the more comprehensive because it is all redeemed, and all the more susceptible because none of it is remote from God."

John Wesley: or, the Theology of Conscience. By the author of "The Philosophy of Evangelicism." (London: Elliot Stock.) Though the argument in this little work is cast in a somewhat scholastic form, it is, in fact, a protest against mere scholastic divinity. The author maintains that the truths of religion are apprehended immediately by the conscience; and that to the conscience the Gospel revelation makes its immediate appeal. The conscience is an intuitional faculty, apprehending spiritual truth for itself, and not waiting on the intellect for its conclusions. In other words, in religious life, the heart is not reached through the head, but is at once laid hold of by the truth. Doctrinal forms and arguments are rather the expressions—often poor and insufficient expressions—of the convictions already formed in the conscience, than the means whereby to form them. We hold this to be true Christian theology; and hence, while we think the argument of the lecture in some points unduly narrowed, and in others claiming for human instincts greater precision than can be fairly assigned to them, we cordially assent to its main position. The lecture suffers from its polemic character. Its object in part is to refute some Wesleyan strictures on another volume of the author's, by showing that it is in accord with Wesley's own teaching. There are, however, some valuable criticisms of representations of Christian faith that are not confined to Wesleyan pulpits. The notion that faith wins the promises by being the "performed condition" for their fulfilment is very properly reprobated; and the simple trustworthiness of faith is vindicated. It is to the "theology of conscience," and not to that of intellect, the author looks for influences of "Catholicity," as well as for the energies that convert men. There is "unity in fact, combined with diversity in conception." "Were peace of conscience the product of an intellectual and logical faith, such variances in earnest minds would be impossible;

and hence the argument leads to the conclusion that this combination of unity and variety (in the Christian faith) is only to be accounted for in the same way as we are to account for all men seeing, perceiving, remembering, reasoning, and willing alike, although scarcely two writers describe the process alike. What is ever is intuitive and simple in fact, is complex and difficult in explanation."

Retrospect and Forecast in relation to Missionary Enterprise. Two Sermons preached in Fuller Chapel, Kettering, on Sunday, October 10th, 1867. By JAMES MURSELL (London: Elliot Stock.) These sermons were preached to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Baptist Missionary Society. The second contains some practical suggestions of reform in the mode of conducting missionary work, for the sake of which the volume was published. We wish Mr. Mursell had expanded this part of his subject, developing his suggestions, and giving them further illustration, instead of publishing the sermons in full. These hints are really valuable, and point to alterations which must be effected, and soon, in all our missions to the heathen. The occasion would, of course, keep the Baptist Missionary Society prominently before the hearers; but we notice one assertion much too broad, even for the pulpit of Fuller Chapel. "It was not by accident that the first secretary of the Baptist Missionary Society was the man who has done more than any other in modern times to vindicate the claim of the Gospel to be regarded and used as a message of love to the whole race of man." We would remind Mr. Mursell that there are denominations that have never been troubled by the controversy referred to in the words we have italicised. The hundreds of ministers who were at that very time preaching universal redemption, and never dreamed of preaching anything else, are wronged by such a claim advanced on behalf of one who shone, however signally, in polemics.

Sermon Thoughts; analysing and illustrating Bible Texts, in Sketches and Brief Discourses. (London: Elliot Stock.) The author has published these sketches "in hope that they may provoke other thoughts, nobler, devouter, and worthier such themes." The use of the word "provoke" here seems like a flash of humour. Many of the discourses are so poor, so shallow, so utterly unworthy of their texts, that we should not wonder if the effect of them were to "provoke" earnest Biblical preachers to vindicate the texts from such ignoble treatment. There are other discourses in the volume that it would have been a pleasure to hear. But none are stimulating or suggestive. Greater precision of thought, a simpler style of expression, a less inflated manner, are much to be desired. The determination to secure these would enable the author to develop to better use his real powers.

Observations on the Conversion and Apostleship of St. Paul. By Lord GEORGE LYTTLETON. With an Introduction by HENRY ROGERS. (London: The Religious Tract Society.) Books like this of Lord Lyttelton's will never grow old. The reason we outgrow the need of them is that they so clearly establish their arguments; but there are always others inquiring as to the historical credibility of the Christian tradition to whom it is useful to go over the old ground. Lord Lyttelton's volume is valuable for its brevity, its singleness of purpose, and its clearness of style. Professor Rogers, in his preliminary essay, answers some objections that have been started since Lord Lyttelton's time. He aims to show that the acceptance of the narrative as actual history is the only explanation of it which is not absurdly self-refuting. The book is neatly printed on good paper and nicely bound; we are glad to see this addition of an old essay in new form to our Apologetic literature.

We have a large number of books on our table which can scarcely claim anything more than passing notice, though many of them are interesting enough. *Savage Island*, by the Rev. THOMAS POWELL (now and Co.), is a very small and unpretending, but withal valuable and encouraging contribution to the history of missions to the heathen. *The Christian Hero*, a sketch of the life of Robert Annan, by the Rev. J. MACPHERSON, (Morgan and Chase), is a true account of the life of a man who was converted from a condition of open immorality and vice, to one of eminent holiness, and who spent the six years of his life following his conversion in labouring for Christ. His mind appears to have dwelt emphatically on the terrors of judgment, and the frailty and guilt of man. *The Dawn of Light*, a story of the Zenana Mission, by MARY E. LESLIE (Snow and Co.), is another missionary contribution. It is written in a style calculated to interest young people in missionary work. Miss Leslie, like many ladies residing in and around Calcutta, is engaged in an attempt to enlighten Hindu families, morally and intellectually, as well as spiritually. In giving some account of this work, she has made use of fiction to add a charm to her narrative. *The Sunbeam's Story*, or Sketches from Beetle Life, by MONA B. BICKERSTAFFE (Johnstone, Hunter and Co.), Last Christmas we commended an attractive and cleverly written book called "Down among the Water Weeds." "The Sunbeam's Story" is by the same writer, and of the same kind. To children who know or seek to know anything of insect life it will be a source of intense delight. It is not only instructive and admirable as a guide, but is written in a charming gossip style. *Sermons for all Classes*, by T. M.

MORRIS, of Ipswich (Elliot Stock), is a sign of the times and an encouraging sign. In consequence of the reasons adduced by some speakers at the London Conference for not going to a place of worship, Mr. Morris last year, with the concurrence of his congregation, adopted the plan of throwing the chapel perfectly open to all comers every Sunday evening. The result was a large attendance throughout the winter of persons who were not accustomed to attend places of worship. These sermons, which were among those preached to them, are of a high order, sensible, practical and heart-stirring. We trust Mr. Morris may be much encouraged to continue his labours in this direction. *Our Earthly House and its Builder* (Religious Tract Society), a popular manual of anatomical and physiological facts, designed to "lead the reader to exclaim with the Psalmist, 'I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works, and that my soul knoweth right well.'" *The Christian Mother at Home; her Duties and Delights*, by J. F. WINKS (Leicester: Winks and Son), is sufficiently described in its title. *The Philosophy of Life and Death*, by JOHN BROOKES (F. Pittman), contains some very trite reflections on a great subject. *The Cardiff Memorial* consists of five papers read at the autumn session of the Baptist Union last year.

Miscellaneous.

THE NEW INCOME-TAX ACT.—The Act to make the income-tax 6d. in the pound for one year, commencing on the 6th of April last, has just been printed. The exemption of persons under 100l. is continued, as also the relief granted in former Acts to incomes under 200l. a year.

REGISTRATION AND THE NEW PARLIAMENT.—The text of the Government bill to amend the law of registration, so far as it relates to the present year, has been published. The bill is divided into two parts, and contains twenty-three clauses. The ninth clause of this bill provides that where, by reason of the disfranchisement or the alteration of the boundaries of any borough during the present session of Parliament, any person who would not otherwise be so entitled becomes entitled to a county vote, the time for making a claim shall in such case this year extend to the 25th instead of the 20th of July. The eleventh clause provides that in the event of a dissolution taking place this year, the first meeting of Parliament after the dissolution may take place any time after the lapse of twenty-eight days from the date of the proclamation.

DEPLORABLE BRUTALITY.—Two young women appeared on Thursday in the Wolverhampton police-court under circumstances happily spoken of as "unusual." They agreed to decide by a fight whose sweetheart a certain young man should be, who had shown some slight attention to both, and he seems to have had no objection to the arbitrament. The time and place was duly fixed, and the women, partially stripped, set to on Monday morning on a piece of waste ground, surrounded by a numerous body of spectators, amongst whom the prize in dispute occupied a prominent position. Several rounds had been well fought, and the battle was still on, when the police came up and stopped it. The girls were Emma Ford and Louisa Buggins, and they were each fined 2s. 6d. and costs.

MR. GLADSTONE AND MR. REARDEN.—Mr. Gladstone's assertion that the hon. member for Athlone was no supporter of the Liberal party has induced Mr. Rearden to ask the right hon. gentleman to explain it. He tells the leader of the Opposition that on several occasions when he was deserted by many of his supporters he "acted in perfect independence, and gave all the aid he could." In reply, Mr. Gladstone reminds his interrogator that he voted against the Liberal party upon the question which was the only vital one contested in 1867, and that in 1866, when the Reform Bill was assailed on six or seven great divisions, Mr. Rearden voted with the Liberals in one of them, and absented himself from the final struggle which overthrew the Government of the day. The right hon. gentleman adds:—"With respect to the form of my assertion, I admit that it would have been improved if I had inserted the words 'in my opinion,' for I have no authority whatever to decide who is, or who is not, a member of the Liberal party. But I may plead that under the circumstances it was at least a milder course to point out the mere want of a political connection, and thus simply to exempt Mr. Lyttelton and myself from responsibility for your acts and language, than to have adopted the only other alternative open to me, which was to have expressed myself respecting your suggestion that her Majesty should abdicate in terms of the severest and most unqualified condemnation." In a rejoinder Mr. Rearden asserts his allegiance to the Liberal party.

MADAME RACHEL.—The hearing of the charge against Madame Rachel was resumed on Monday after noon, before Mr. Knox, at Marlborough-street. The court was densely crowded, and Lord Ranelagh was present. Madame Rachel did not seem to be altogether satisfied with the arrangements for her defence; she had wished, she said, to have the services of Sergeant Ballantine, and, for that purpose, she had placed fifty guineas in the hands of her solicitor, who, however, failed to obtain Mr. Ballantine's aid. She had also been disappointed by a person, who told her that, if she paid a certain sum of money, the charge would be set aside. When Madame Rachel had stated her difficulties to the magistrate, the examination of Mrs. Borradaile went on. Mrs. Borradaile, after creating some amusement by stating that on one occasion she had received from

Madame Rachel a love token, in the shape of a lighted cigar, which she believed came from Lord Ranelagh, created no less surprise by declaring that, to the best of her belief, the Lord Ranelagh she saw in court, and the gentleman who was introduced to her by that title in 1866, were one and the same person. On the other hand, one James Minton, an auctioneer's clerk, deposed to having been employed to write letters to Mrs. Borradale, at Madame Rachel's dictation. Lord Ranelagh once more declared that he had nothing whatever to do with the affair, and the case was adjourned till Monday next, Madame Rachel being again required to find the heavy bail of two sureties in 1,000*l.* each, and herself in 2,000*l.*

REMARKABLE METEOR.—A remarkable meteor was seen at the Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford, on June 8, at 9*h.* 50*m.* When first seen by Mr. Lucas it had the appearance of a fine white cloud about 5 deg. in length and 1 deg. in breadth, a little to the west of Polaris. As the observer was pointing out its comet-like appearance to some persons who happened to be with him in the lower meadow of the Observatory, it appeared to start into motion, taking a course directly west, and passing just below α and β Ursa Majoris, and leaving a train behind of a greater breadth than itself, which remained visible through its own course after it had disappeared below the N.W. horizon. When it approached Leo it deviated from the straight line which it had previously taken, and turned somewhat towards the south, passing near Regulus, and then bent northwards again. The time that it was visible must have been nearly four minutes. Its appearance at one time was very like that of the flame and smoke combined which sometimes issue from a railway engine, only very faint on account of the brightness of the still remaining twilight. There was a thick haze all the night. A periselenes, or mock moon, was seen on the same night at 13*h.* 40*m.*

MR. LONGFELLOW IN ENGLAND.—Mr. Longfellow and his three daughters have arrived on a visit to this country. He was at Carlisle on Thursday night, and received a cordial welcome. On Saturday, the committee of the Carlisle Literary and Mechanics' Institution presented an address to Mr. Longfellow, cordially welcoming the poet to the ancient border city. Mr. Longfellow, upon receiving the address, said:—

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—Being more accustomed to speak with the pen than with the tongue, it is somewhat difficult for me to find appropriate words now to thank you for the honour you have done me, and the very kind expressions you have used. Coming here as a stranger, this welcome makes me feel that I am not a stranger; for how can a man be a stranger in a country where he finds all doors and all hearts open to him? Besides, I myself am a Cumberland man—(Hear, hear.)—I was born in the county of Cumberland, in the State of Maine—(laughter)—3,000 miles from here, and you all know that the familiar name of a town or country has a home-like sound to all ears. (Hear, hear.) And yet there is much strangeness in this now, when I come to the land of my fathers and find in it no trace of my family or name. If I am to find them at all it will not be in the streets of towns, or on the outside of the houses of the living, but in the graveyard and on the doors of the dead. You can think then how very grateful it is to me—how very pleasant—to find my name has a place in your memories and your affections. For this kindness I most heartily thank you, and I reciprocate all the good wishes which you have expressed for the perpetuation of the ties of amity between our two nations.

The members of the committee were then introduced individually to Mr. Longfellow, who shook hands with them all. On Saturday afternoon Mr. Longfellow visited Edenhall, the seat of the ancient Border clan of the Musgraves, where is still preserved the ancient goblet of the Luck of Edenhall. A noteworthy incident occurred at the Citadel Station. Mr. W. Wordsworth, of St. Ann's Hill, near Carlisle, son of the late poet-laureate, drove down to meet the American lyrical poet. The circumstance seemed to give Mr. Longfellow great gratification. He has left Carlisle for Cambridge, where the honorary degree of LL.D. will be conferred upon him.

ASYLUM FOR FATHERLESS CHILDREN.—The twenty-fourth annual meeting and Midsummer election of this excellent charity took place on Monday at the London Tavern. Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Stone, who presided, in opening the proceedings, remarked upon the amount of much-needed charity which had been accomplished by means of this institution, and the necessity that exists for increased public support. He regretted to find that, notwithstanding the large number of applicants, the board of management could not admit more than fifteen children at the present election. The new impost of local taxes (amounting to more than 100*l.* annually), and the increased cost of provisions, obliged the board to reduce the number of children to be elected at these elections. For two years twenty children had been admitted at each half-yearly election, which the funds scarcely justified, but the applications were so numerous and distressing that the board had hesitated to diminish the admissions. There were now 252 children in the asylum, and the income was inadequate to their maintenance. The board were therefore obliged to appeal to the Christian and benevolent public to help this eminently deserving home for orphans, which for usefulness may be classed as second to none in the metropolis. The Rev. T. W. Aveling, to whose exertions as hon. secretary the institution owes much, presented a report which showed that the only drawback to the beneficent operations of the Asylum for Fatherless Children is a want of sufficient pecuniary assistance. The securing of land for the fuller development of the charitable work in which the institution is engaged had involved a debt of 2,000*l.* during the past year, 500*l.* of which had been raised and paid by means of special subscriptions. It is to be hoped that the

friends of the charity will exert themselves to speedily discharge the remaining obligations. The income for general purposes had not decreased; but the larger number of children now in the asylum (eighteen more than at Midsummer, 1867, and forty-two more than at Midsummer, 1866), the enhanced price of provisions, and the impost of local taxation to which charitable institutions have been subjected, had greatly crippled the efforts of the board, so that though the balance-sheet showed an encouraging amount of support, the charity is in debt. The health of the orphan family is excellent. The annual fête and public examination of the children will take place at the Asylum, Reedham, near Croydon, on the 30th of this month. On the motion of Mr. D. T. Devitt, seconded by Mr. W. Smith, the report was unanimously adopted. After transacting the usual yearly business, the election of ten boys and five girls from a list of candidates was proceeded with.

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.—The annual meeting of the friends of this institution was held on Thursday at Willis's Rooms. There was a large attendance, particularly of ladies. Amongst the gentlemen present were the Archbishop of York (who presided at the opening part of the proceedings), Dean Stanley, Lord Shaftesbury, Mr. Layard, M.P., Mr. Tite, M.P., Mr. W. Harrison, M.P., and Sir H. Rawlinson. After an address from the chairman, the Rev. F. W. Holland read the report. It stated that although the money subscribed had fallen short of what was necessary for carrying out what was intended, yet the results were such as to encourage them to go forward with the work, and to lead them to expect some very interesting discoveries. Notwithstanding the difficulties and expense incidental to the work, Lieutenant Warren had been able to carry on his inquiries in a very gratifying manner. Lieutenant Warren would go back to Jerusalem next Saturday. Lieutenant Warren, who was received with acclamation, then read a very interesting paper descriptive of his operations in Jerusalem. There are two corps of engineers and about seventy Mussulmans of different nationalities engaged in the work. By means of a map distributed about the room, Lieutenant Warren referred to and dilated upon the sites of the various explorations and excavations he has instituted, and showed that those interesting operations are being carried on with much vigour and with prospects of very important results. Dean Stanley moved a resolution thanking Lieutenant Warren for the account he had given of the inquiries he had taken into hand, and hoping that he would be able to continue his explorations with like success. In doing so, Dean Stanley testified to the importance of the work in which the society is engaged, and trusted that the public would not allow that work to be hampered for want of means. He regretted the absence of Mr. Grove, to whose energy the existence of the institution was due. (Applause.) Mr. Layard, M.P., seconded the proposition. He bore testimony to the great tact and judgment displayed by Lieutenant Warren in dealing with the authorities in the Holy Land. He also thought the Sultan and his Ministers were entitled to thanks for the liberal manner in which they had enabled Lieutenant Warren to carry on his explorations. (Applause.) Sir H. Rawlinson moved that, "Whilst it was of great importance that the excavations should be kept up, it was of the utmost moment that a systematic survey of the whole of Palestine should be compiled as soon as possible." He remarked that, up to the present day, no reliable map of Palestine had been drawn up, and he pointed out the importance of having the proposed survey compiled. The Rev. H. Allon seconded the proposition. A third resolution, urging the importance of further researches with regard to the geology, zoology, and botany, was also passed.

Gleanings.

In the county of Sussex there are at the present time nearly 900 pauper lunatics.

A child of five years of age has died from sunstroke while playing in the Strand.

The International Enfield Rifle Match at Edinburgh has been won by England. The totals were—England, 1,068 marks; Scotland, 1,057; and Ireland, 986.

A coin of the Roman Emperor Publius Lucinius Gallienus was found in Winchester last week. It was in good preservation.

1,200 tons of new potatoes from the Channel Islands and France were imported into Southampton last week.

A motion in the Leeds Town Council that the members should "wear court hats on special occasions" has been lost by a large majority.

The Bristol papers caution the public against counterfeit half-sovereigns. Several have been detected at the local banks within the last two days.

It has been calculated that out of seventy-nine new serial publications which have appeared in London since the commencement of the present year, only seven are now in existence.

A PIOUS PROVERB.—A teacher said to a little girl at school, "If a naughty girl should hurt you, like a good girl you would forgive her, wouldn't you?" "Yes, ma'am," she replied, "if I couldn't catch her."

A churlish fellow refused to pay a shoeblack a penny, saying a halfpenny was quite enough; whereupon the shoeblack exclaimed, "Go along, old buffer! all the polish you've got is upon your shoes, and I gave you that."

A Connaught farmer who had been brought to an election dinner in his county town was puzzled with the silver fork which lay before him with his soup; what he most needed had been forgotten. The farmer reminded the waiter by saying, "Waiter; will ye bring me a spoon without a slit in it?"

The Rev. M. H. Gallagher, in noticing some instances in education of children, said he knew of a woman who used to tie her boy to a bedpost on a Sunday, while she went to church, and made him learn the hymn beginning—"Thine earthly Sabbaths, Lord, we love."

Dr. Blake recently stated that he was able to cure the most desperate case of toothache, unless the disease was connected with rheumatism, by the application of the following remedy:—Alum, reduced to an impalpable powder, two drachms; mix and apply to the tooth.

A YORKSHIRE ACCOUNTANT.—A Halifax butcher, before the local County Court Judge recently, being asked if he kept any books, caused much merriment by replying:—"I'll tell you, Mr. Stansfield, how it is. We keep books in our neighborhood under the old act—a cipher stands for a sovereign; a cross stands for ten shilling; a hofe rhand stands for sixpence, and a strook for a penny."

PUZZLING.—A tall Down-Easter girl, named Short, long loved a big Mr. Little, while Mr. Little, thinking little of Short, loved a little lass named Long. To make a long story short, Little proposed to Long, and Short longed to be even with Little's shortcomings. So Short, meeting Long, threatened to marry Little before Long, which caused Little in a short time to marry Long. Query: Did tall Short love big Little less because Little loved Long?—*American paper.*

THE EVILS OF TIGHT LACING.—The *Lancet* recapitulates the evils known to arise from tight lacing, which is now once more coming into fashion. It impairs the respiratory movement of the diaphragm, throwing the work on the intercostal muscles and those of the neck, and so diminishes the aeration of the blood, and produces general languor. It drives down the stomach, thus causing painful forms of dyspepsia, impairs uterine health, and injures, often very seriously, the glands of the breast. These facts, says the *Lancet*, have been known for years; but there are classes of women into whose heads, it would seem, they cannot be driven, even by experience.

EXTRAORDINARY SCENE IN A CHURCH.—In a pretty little village church in Wiltshire, the other Sunday evening, the minister announced the closing hymn. The leader of the choir and clerk of the church, an honest knight of the anvil, to the surprise of the congregation, exclaimed, "'Tis the 'underd and thirteenth hymn.'" "No, it is not," said the clergyman, and again he announced the right number, and requested the clerk to play it. "I tell 'ee 'tis the 'underd and thirteenth,'" persisted the village blacksmith. To prevent this unseemly harangue, the clergyman descended from the pulpit, walked to the harmonium, placed the hymn before the clerk (who had been watching his operations with contracted eyebrows), and said, "Play that, if you please." The stubborn functionary looked at it, and seeing it was not his "'underd and thirteenth," said, "This aint the right hymn, I tell 'ee." "Never mind, you play it." "I shant, you play 'en yourself," said the crusty clerk, and he walked from the place. The congregation was dismissed, and the clerk was sent for. "Do you know you have acted very improperly to-night?" said the clergyman to him, "and if you do not make a public apology before the congregation next Sunday, I shall request you to vacate your office." "What, zur, make a public 'poligy! Do you know I be a monied man? Do you know I be a vour 'underd poun man?" He refused to apologise, and so he will lose his office.—*Bristol Daily Post.*

STOVES AND OVENS.—Black lead is a great institution in this country, and probably few but cooks and housemaids would care to see its use diminished. It certainly has its recommendations, but it can hardly be said to be ornamental, while it entails an immense amount of labour on our servants. In Germany, where a stove and sort of kitchen range is continually to be found in the common sitting-room of a respectable family, the unsightliness seems to have been felt, and a suggestion has been made to do away with the black lead, and paint the stoves and ovens. Oil paint, of course, cannot be employed, but water glass (silicate of potash) coloured with pigment to match the paint of the apartment, is the material recommended. Before this is applied the iron must be thoroughly cleansed from grease, and all rust spots must be rubbed off with a scratch brush. Two or three coats of the paint may then be put on and allowed to dry, after which the fire may be lighted without fear of injury to the colour, which may, indeed, be heated to redness. Grease or milk spilt over the paint has no effect upon it, and it may be kept clean by washing with soap and water. Dutch ovens and like utensils may also be coated with the same material, and the labour spent in polishing be saved. A good coating of the paint, the author says, will last a year or two.—*Mechanics' Magazine.*

THE FALL OF "METEORIC STONES" AT BIRMINGHAM.—Some of the "meteoric stones" collected by Mr. Plant after the great thunderstorm of the 29th ult., and which have given rise to some controversy, were sent to the Birmingham borough analyst for examination. The following is Dr. Hill's report:—"They possess three characters—colour, fracture, hardness, specific gravity (about 3), and the property of being feebly attracted by the magnet—of basaltic rock, and are similar to, if not identical with, the well-known Rowley Ragstone. The property they possess of being attracted by the magnet is due to the presence in them of 'magnetic oxide of iron,' a compound of iron and oxygen, very commonly associated with other matters, in the complex mineral known as basalt. I fear this information will throw but little light upon the source of these mineral masses, as to whether they are of cosmical or telluric origin, as they may be of either. The proximity of the Rowley Rag to us, and the fact that our streets are made of and mended with it, lend

probability to the hypothesis that they have been carried up from the surface of the earth by a cyclone, to be showered down at a distance from the spot where they were raised. This is not only plausible but probable; but the hypothesis must not be accepted without reserve, for the reason that cases are on record, and apparently well authenticated, of the fall of innumerable fragments at different times, possessing, as far as I can learn, exactly the character of those which have been submitted to me, and which are believed by high scientific authority to be aerolites or asterigids. The perfect resemblance between the specimens submitted to me and the Rowley Ragstone, certainly, in my mind, point to an origin near home; but, as the question is rather of an astronomical or meteorological character than of a chemical one, I must leave its solution to others."

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

SHERRING.—June 8, at 6, Lowman-road, Holloway, N., the wife of the Rev. M. A. Sherring, LL.B., of a son.
THEOBALD.—June 15, the wife of Mr. Theobald, Esq., of Hendon, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

CHAPLIN—DORLING.—May 17, at Nicholas-street Independent Chapel, Ipswich, by the Rev. T. L. Collins, Mr. William Hamilton Chaplin, to Annie Eliza, second daughter of Mr. Charles Dorling, of St. Clement's, Ipswich.
EAYRES—TALBOT.—June 1, at the Victoria-road Church, Leicester, by the Rev. N. Baycroft, Mr. Francis James Eayres, to Annie Catherine, only daughter of Mr. O. J. Talbot, of Leicester.
JOHNSON—STONE.—June 4, at the Great Meeting, Leicester, by the Rev. C. C. Coe, assisted by the Rev. C. Berry, Joseph Fielding Johnson, of Nuneaton, son of J. G. Johnson, Esq., of Stockport, to Edith, youngest daughter of Samuel Stone, Esq., of Elmfield, near Leicester.
YATES—JACKSON.—June 4, at the United Methodist Free Church, by the Rev. T. Keyworth, John, eldest son of Mr. James Yates, of Choriton-on-Medlock, to Elizabeth Ann, third daughter of Mr. Joseph Jackson, of Greenheys.
WILLIAM—ROBERTS.—June 5, at the Congregational church, Grove-street, Liverpool, by the Rev. E. Evans, Carnarvon, Dr. John William, to Mary, eldest daughter of O. Roberts, Esq., Pen-y-Groes, Carnarvonshire.
FLINT—CASTLE.—June 4, at John-street Chapel, Bedford-row, by the Hon. and Rev. Baptist W. Noel, M.A., Abraham Marsh, son of Mr. Thomas Flint, of Mill Hall, Aylesford, Kent, to Alice Annie, daughter of Mrs. Castle, Folkestone, Kent.
BODEN—LOWE.—June 8, at the Wicker Congregational Church, Sheffield, by the Rev. J. Smith, Mr. Thomas Boden, of Mytham Bridge, to Mrs. Elizabeth Lowe, Occupation-road, Sheffield.
PICKFORD—BURROWS.—June 9, at the Congregational church, Stalybridge, by the Rev. J. H. Gwyther, B.A., John Henry Pickford, of Stalybridge, to Sarah Elizabeth, only daughter of Samuel Burrows, Esq., Tame Valley, Dukinfield.
GRIMSHAW—YEADON.—June 9, at the Baptist chapel, Rawdon, by the Rev. R. Holmes, Mr. Edmund Grimshaw, to Ann Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr. John Yeadon, of Low Mills.
BARNARD—WEBB.—June 10, at Bloomsbury Chapel, by the Rev. W. Brook, Charles, fifth son of the late Edward Barnard, Esq., of Highbury Park, to Laura, fourth daughter of Mrs. Webb, of Gower-street. No cards.
FIRTH—STOTT.—June 10, at Square Congregational Church, Halifax, by the Rev. E. Mellor, Mr. William Firth, to Miss Mary Ann Stott, both of Rastrick.
GARNER—LANGHAM.—June 11, at the Congregational chapel, Lutterworth, by the Rev. Jesse Hopwood, Mr. William Garner, of Melton Mowbray, to Louisa, eldest daughter of the late John Langham, Esq., of Walton.
LUCAS—WHITEHEAD.—June 12, at the Congregational church, Square-road, Halifax, by the Rev. E. Mellor, Mr. Daniel Lucas, of Lockwood, to Miss Ann Whitehead, of Rastrick.
SILTON—NAYLOR.—June 13, at Eastbrook Chapel, Bradford, by the Rev. J. Clegg, Mr. Joseph Sifton, to Miss Mary Elizabeth Naylor, both of Bowling.
SMITH—OGDEN.—June 13, at the Westgate Chapel, by the Rev. G. Gill, Edward, eldest son of the late Robert Smith, Esq., to Elizabeth Anne, eldest daughter of Mr. Thomas Ogden, both of Burnley.

DEATHS.

RIGG.—June 5, at his residence, London, aged fifty-two years, Mr. John Chulow Rigg, for twenty years principal editor of the *Watchman* newspaper, and the eldest son of the late Rev. John Rigg, Wesleyan minister.
CLARK.—June 5, at St. Andrew's Villa, Ventnor, Ann, widow of the Rev. James Clark, late of Leamington.
WILSON.—June 9, at his daughter's residence, 58, Mildmay Park, Effingham Wilson, aged eighty-six.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Many persons neglect to take the commonest precautions against illness, whereby they are exposed to future sufferings or probable danger: colds, coughs, and oppression at the chest should be removed without delay, by rubbing this cooling derivative unguent twice a day upon the skin, covering the chest, and its sanitary action should be augmented by the use of Holloway's pills, as propounded in their accompanying directions. The same means diligently carried out will relieve influenza, asthma, shortness of breath, palpitation, and almost every other pectoral complaint. Be the cause of the malady known or unknown matters not; Holloway's remedies are competent to expel all corruptions from the system, to regulate disordered functions, and to restore nervous tone.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's *Gazette*.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending Wednesday, June 10.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£35,913,995	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	5,984,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion	20,943,995
	£35,913,995		£35,913,995

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities (Inc. dead weight annuity)	£13,294,557
Reserve	8,075,881	Other Securities	16,800,214
Public Deposits	7,415,041	Notes	12,403,156
Other Deposits	20,802,549	Gold & Silver Coin	1,280,820
Seven Day and other Bills	467,825		
	£45,818,746		£45,818,746

June 11, 1868. GEORGE FORBES, Chief Cashier.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, June 15.

The weather continues very bright and hot, and rain begins to be much wanted. There was a very small supply of English wheat to this morning's market, which was sold at an advance of 1s. to 2s. per quarter on the rates of this day's night. There was a decided improvement in the tone of the trade for foreign, and sales were effected at the extreme rates of last week. Barley sells at about 1s. per quarter decline. Beans and peas steady. There is a good arrival of oats for the week, chiefly by steamers from Russian ports. The lighter qualities of this description have scarcely maintained former currencies, but there has been a fair steady trade for the better samples, and for Swedish and Danish at about previous quotations.

CURRENT PRICES.

WHEAT—	Per Qr.	Per Qr.	PEAS—	Per Qr.	Per Qr.
Essex and Kent, red, old	71 to 72		Grey	45 to 46	
Ditto new	65 71		Maple	46 48	
White, old	73 78		White	45 47	
new	66 75		Boilers	45 47	
Foreign red	65 68		Foreign, white	44 46	
white	68 73				
BARLEY—			Rye	40 42	
English malting	84 86				
Chevalier	37 45		OATS—		
Distilling	36 40		English feed	36 38	
Foreign	82 84		potatoes	30 35	
MALT—			Scotch feed	—	
Pale	—		potatoes	—	
Chevalier	—		Irish black	28 36	
Brown	54 63		white	23 26	
			Foreign feed	23 28	
BEANS—			FLOUR—		
Ticks	42 45		Town made	56 60	
Harrow	48 46		Country Marks	49 50	
Small	—		Norfolk & Suffolk	46 48	
Egyptian	43 44				

BREAD.—LONDON, Saturday, June 13.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 10d. to 10½d.; house hold ditto, 7½d. to 9d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET.

LONDON, Monday, June 15.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 7,500 head. At the corresponding period in 1867 we received 13,592; in 1868, 18,321; in 1865, 14,169; in 1864, 11,092; in 1863, 8,328; in 1862, 8,212; and in 1861, 10,075 head. There was a full average supply of foreign stock on sale here to-day. Generally speaking, the demand ruled heavy, and prices, compared with Monday last, gave way 4d. per 8 lbs. Owing, in some measure, to the scarcity of grass, the arrivals of beasts fresh up from our own grazing districts were on the increase. Although the attendance of butchers was rather numerous, all breeds of beasts met a heavy inquiry, at a decline in the quotations of from 2d. to 4d. per 8 lbs., at which a clearance was not effected. The best Scotch and crosses sold at 4s. 8d. per 8 lbs. The arrivals from Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire were about 2,300 Scotch, shorthorns, and crosses; from other parts of England, 550 various breeds; from Scotland, 26 Scotch and crosses; and from Ireland, 60 oxen, &c. There was an unusually large supply of sheep in the pens; all breeds, therefore, moved off heavily, and prices gave way 2d. to 4d. per 8 lbs. The best Downs and half-breeds changed hands at 4s. 6d. per 8 lbs. The quality of most breeds was by no means first-rate. Lambs, the supply of which was extensive, were 8d. per 8 lbs. lower than on this day's night. The quotations ranged from 5s. 4d. to 6s. 4d. per 8 lbs. The sale for calves ruled heavy, at 2d. per 8 lbs. less money. The numbers on offer were good. Prices ranged from 3s. 8d. to 5s. per 8 lbs. There was scarcely any inquiry for pigs on lower terms, viz., from 3s. 4d. to 4s. 2d. per 8 lbs.

Per 8 lbs. to sink the Offal.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Inf. coarse beasts	2	10 to 3	Prime Southdown	4	4 to 4
Second quality	2	8 3	Lambs	5	4 6 4
Prime large oxen	3	8 4	Ego, coarse calves	3	8 4 8
Prime Scots, &c.	4	6 4	Prime small	4	4 8 5
Coarse inf. sheep	3	0 8	Large hogs	3	4 3 8
Second quality	3	8 3	Neatsm. porkers	3	10 4 2
Pr. coarse woolled	4	0 4			

Suckling calves, 22s. to 26s.; and quarter-old store pigs, 23s. to 26s. each.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL, Monday, June 15.

Although the supplies of meat on sale here are by no means extensive, the trade is heavy in the extreme, and prices generally have given way 2d. to 4d. per 8 lbs. No foreign meat arrived in London last week.

Per 8 lbs. by the carcass.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Inferior beef	2	10 to 3	2	Inf. mutton	3 0 3 4
Middling ditto	3	4	3 6	Middling ditto	3 6 4 0
Prime large do.	3	8	4 0	Prime ditto	4 2 4 4
Do. small do.	4	2	4 4	Veal	3 6 4 6
Large pork	2	10	3 6	Lamb	5 0 5 8
Small pork	3	8	4 4		

COVENT GARDEN MARKET, LONDON, Saturday, June 13.—During the past week there have been heavy arrivals of cherries, strawberries, apricots, &c., from the continent, together with the usual assortment of vegetables. Good home-grown strawberries may also now be had, at prices varying from 1s. to 2s. per lb. Cauliflowers are excellent, as are, indeed, most descriptions of spring vegetables. Flowers chiefly consist of orchids, stocks, lily of the valley, pelargoniums, fuchsias, mignonette, and roses.

BOROUGH HOP MARKET, Monday, June 15.—Our market continues very inactive, quotations of every description remaining nominal. The daily reports received from the plantations are still very favourable, the bines in almost every district making satisfactory progress, although not altogether free from vermin. Continental prospects are favourable. Belgium, however, has exhibited indications of fresh dry within the last few days. The flat state of the markets abroad confirms the reports of the generally healthy condition of the ground. New York advices to the 30th ultimo report the hop market as very dull. Accounts from the yards are on the whole satisfactory; Michigan, however, is slightly attacked with fly and lice. Mid and East Kent, 4l. 6s. 5l. 5s., to 6l. 15s.; Weald of Kent, 4l. 4l. 15s., to 5l. 12s.; Sussex, 5l. 15s., 4l. 4s., to 5l.; Farnham and country, 6l. 6l., to 6l. 6s.; Yearlings, 3l. 5s., 3l. 10s., to 4l. 4s.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, June 15.—Increased supplies of new potatoes are on sale, for which there is a fair demand. Kent and Essex wares 10s. to 12s., Scilly 6s. to 8s., Jersey 8s. to 9s., Lisbon 6s. to 8s. per cwt. Old produce has been neglected at our quotations. The imports into London last week consisted of 123 tons Dunkirk, 10 tons Rotterdam, and 8,559 boxes from Lisbon. Regents, 130s. to 180s. per ton; flukes, 70s. to 130s.; rocks, 70s. to 80s.; French, 60s. to 70s.

SEED, Monday, June 15.—There was not much passing in any description of cloverseed, and prices of all sorts were nominally the same as last week. Trefoils were held on former terms. Old trifolium was held at previous values; new not yet offering from France, although some is reported to have been secured, and the high prices there were consequently not supported for this article. In maize the transactions were few, and prices in favour of the buyers, to the extent of 1s. to 2s. per quarter on some sorts.

PROVISIONS, Monday, June 15.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 665 firkins butter, and 3,498 barrels bacon; and from foreign ports, 28,431 casks, &c. Butter, 2 1½d. sales and 40 boxes bacon. Foreign butter sold steadily without change in prices. In Irish we had a little doing; a few sales of finest Clonmel made at 10½d. free on board, and first Corks at 10½d. free on board. We have no change to notice in Irish bacon; the market remains firm. Hamburg advanced 1s. per cwt.

WOOL, Monday, June 15.—There is still very little doing in English wool, and no further change has taken place in prices. Stocks are on the increase, but after the close of the public sales of colonial produce increased animation may be looked for.

OIL, Monday, June 15.—Lined oil has moved off slowly, at dropping prices. A good business has been doing in rape oil, but on rather easier terms. Olive has sold quietly. Coconut has been steady in value, with a moderate demand. Palm has been scarce and dear. Petroleum has been freely operated in. Turpentine has ruled quiet.

TALLOW, Monday, June 15.—The market is firm, and T.C. on the spot is now quoted at 44s. to 45s. 3d. Town tallow 41s. 3d. net cash.

COAL, Monday, June 15.—Market without alteration from last day. Wallsend Hottons 15s. 6d., South Hottons 15s., Haswell 15s. 6d., Braddys Hottons 17s., Hottons 15s. 6d., East Hartlepool 15s., Kellie 15s. 6d., Holywell Main 15s. 6d., Wylam 15s. 6d., Hartleys 15s. 6d. Ships fresh arrived, 30; ships left from last day, 4; ships at sea, 45.

Advertisements.

THE ANNUAL SERVICES OF THE NORTH.

ERN BAPTIST EDUCATION SOCIETY will be held at RAWDON COLLEGE, on Wednesday, June 24th, 1868.

The ANNUAL MEETING will commence at Two p.m., when the Report will be presented, and the business of the Society attended to; after which an ESSAY will be read by Mr. W. H. PERKINS, M.A., and a SERMON delivered by Mr. H. BONNER, one of the Students. Tea will be provided at Five o'clock, tickets one shilling each; and the Evening Service will commence at Six, when an ADDRESS will be delivered to the Students by the Rev. J. MAKEPEACE, of Bradford.

T. AKED, Treasurer.
W. STEAD,
J. P. CHOWN, Secretary.

BRISTOL COLLEGE.

The ANNUAL MEETING of the Subscribers to Bristol College will be held in the VESTRY of BROADMEAD CHAPEL, on Wednesday, June 24th, at One o'clock.

In consequence of the precarious condition of the Venerable President, this Meeting will be held only pro forma, and will be adjourned to a future day, of which due notice will be given.

The usual religious service will also not be held.
N. HAYCROFT, Secretary.

NEW COLLEGE, LONDON.

The EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at the COLLEGE, Finchley New-road, St. John's-wood, on Friday Evening, June 26th. The Chair will be taken at Six o'clock, by the Rev. Dr. RALEIGH, Chairman of the Congregational Union of England and Wales. One of the Senior Students will read an Essay on "Bernard of Clairvaux." The usual business of the Annual Meeting will be transacted, including the Distribution of the Certificate of Honour obtained in the Examinations, and the Presentation of Books from the Melvyn Fund to Students leaving the College. Several Ministers and Gentlemen are expected to address the Meeting. The attendance of subscribers and friends of the College is respectfully invited.

W. FARRE, LL.B., Secretary.

UNPARALLELED NOVELTIES.—"A

Spiritual Adventurer."—Everything Floating in the Air.—"The Angel and the Flowers."—Spiritual Manifestations of a Homely nature; daily at quarter to 8 and quarter to 8.—Professor Pepper on Faraday's Optical Experiments.—George Buckland's Musical Entertainment, "The Marquis of Carabas."—The Automatic Chess Player.—The Shadow Blondin.—The Abyssinian Expedition, by Thomas Baines, Esq., F.R.G.S., daily at quarter to 2 and quarter past 7.—At the ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.

THE GRAND BAZAAR in AID of the

BUILDING FUND of the ALEXANDRA ORPHANAGE for INFANTS, will be held in the NEW BUILDINGS, HORNSKY-RISE, under Royal and Distinguished Patronage, on SATURDAY, July 18th, 1868, and be continued on MONDAY, July 20th, and two following days.

Tickets may be obtained at the Office of the Charity, 56, Ludgate-hill, London, E.C.

JOSEPH SOUL, Hon. Secretary.

Valuable contributions have been already received from her Royal Highness the Crown Princess of Prussia, and other noble and distinguished ladies.

Also from friends of the Orphan in many of the principal cities and towns in England and abroad.

Ladies intending to send Goods will greatly oblige by doing so before the end of the present month, direct to Miss Soul, No. 11, Boxworth-grove, Islington, N., or to the Office, 56, Ludgate-hill, London, E.C.

SCHWEPPE'S MALVERN SELTZER, pre-

pared from the Malvern Water, so long celebrated for its purity. Every bottle is protected by a label having name and trade mark.—Manufactured at London, Liverpool, Derby, Bristol, Glasgow, Malvern.

TO WOOLLEN DRAPERS.—SITUATION

WANTED. 14 Years' experience of the Provincial and London Trade (principally the former), in good Woollen Houses.—Address, W. S., 3, Park-view, Grove-hill, Tunbridge Wells.

APPRENTICE.—Messrs. Blundell Bros.,

Drapers, Luton, have a VACANCY for a respectable, well-educated Youth. Wesleyan family. Terms on application.

REQUIRED by a YOUNG LADY, in

her 21st Year, a SITUATION as GOVERNESS in a Private family. She is competent to instruct in English, French, German, and Music, with the rudiments of Latin and Drawing.—Apply to the Rev. J. H. Millard, B.A., Huntingdon.

MIDDLE-CLASS EDUCATION.—A Gentleman who has been a very successful Educator for upwards of twenty years, desires an engagement. He will undertake to COMMENCE a School, if suitable accommodation be provided.—Address, Mr. H. Mott, 207, Camberwell New-road, S.E.

A YOUNG LADY having served three years, is desirous of obtaining a situation as JUNIOR in the Drapery Business in a respectable house. Country preferred.—B.E., Post-office, Lambeth.

TO GROCERS or DRAPERS.—SITUATION by a Married Man. Has a knowledge of the ready-made and boot and shoe trade. No objection to travel. Total abstinence.—N. O., Post-office, Bournemouth, Hants.

A YOUNG LADY, as IMPROVER, has a wish to obtain a comfortable situation in the General Drapery. She will give the first twelve months without salary. Age 17. Country preferred.—C. C., Post-office, Lambeth.

TO MILLINERS and STRAW BONNET MAKERS.—SITUATION by a Young Person, having a thorough knowledge of straw hat and bonnet work, Leghorns. Could assist in millinery. For terms, address A. B., 1, London-road, Luton, Beds.

FEMALE MISSIONARY.—WANTED, an earnest, active Christian woman of tact and experience, to labour among the fallen women of London. Ministers and others acquainted with any such seeking employment are requested to refer them to the Secretary of the Reformatory and Refuge Union, 24, New-street, Spring Gardens, S.W.

REQUIRED, in September, a LADY able to conduct a Kindergarten Class, to instruct in music, and to assist in taking charge of Pupils.—Apply, stating full particulars, to B., care of Relfe, Brothers, School Booksellers, 150, Aldersgate-street, London.

REQUIRED, after the Vacation, in September, a Young Lady, capable of teaching Music thoroughly, of assisting in English, German, and of taking charge of the Schoolroom. Apply, stating age and salary required, to T. M., care of Relfe, Brothers, School Booksellers, 150, Aldersgate-street, London.

ARTICLED PUPIL in a Ladies' School, after the Midsummer recess. Premium moderate. C. B., Mr. Wride, Chemist, Shirley, Southampton.

NURSERY GOVERNESS to Young Children, without accomplishments, or as Useful Companion to a Lady, by a Young Lady, aged 19. Fond of children, and a good needlewoman.—E. Grant, Hinton, Charterhouse, near Bath.

TO WHITESMITHS.—WANTED, a good and experienced Workman, accustomed to the trade of an Ironmonger. One that could assist in the front shop. State age, wages, and reference.—Wm. Pearson, Ironmonger, Bedale, Yorkshire.

WANTED, by a Respectable, Industrious Married Man, a Situation in any light capacity where trust and confidence are required. Knowledge of bookkeeping. Abstinence. Interview if wished. Willing to be useful.—W. B., 11, St. John-lane, Castle-street, Canterbury.

TO LET, for a short or longer period, in a respectable Farm House in North Wales, a Parlor with one or two good Bedrooms, all furnished. The House is healthily situated in a quiet retired district, inhabited chiefly by a Nonconforming community. Within a few miles of a railway-station, and a post passing daily. If required, the use of a pony and trap may be had. For particulars and terms apply to Mrs. Alpha, Post-office, Machynlleth, North Wales.

A GOOD GENERAL SERVANT Wanted, in a small family. The Advertiser will be greatly obliged to any lady who can recommend the same. Must be an early riser and clean in her person and work. Most of the washing put out.—Address, Mrs. A. Miall, 2, Devonshire Cottages, Fox-lane, Upper Norwood.

TO MASTER PORK BUTCHERS.—As Foreman, Shopman, Clerk, or Manager of a Branch, by a Young Man, aged 24. Eight years' experience. Highest references.—A. B., Pier View Cottage, George-street, Ryde, Isle of Wight.

ILFRACOMBE HOTEL.—Perfect in all its arrangements. 200 Apartments, large and elegant Public Rooms, Promenade Terrace 1,000 feet in length, facing the Atlantic. Board, if desired, at a fixed sum per day or week. Table d'hôte daily. Address, Mr. BOHN, Ilfracombe, North Devon.

TETTERHALL PROPRIETARY SCHOOL, near Wolverhampton.
HEAD MASTER.
Rev. ROBERT HALLEY, M.A.
SECOND MASTER.
EDWARD STANE JACKSON, Esq., M.A.

The object of this School is to furnish, on moderate terms, a sound and liberal education, both classical and commercial, with a religious training in harmony with the principles held by Evangelical Nonconformists.

A thorough education in the classics and mathematics is made the main element in the school course, which includes also a sound training in all the usual branches of an English education, together with the French language and vocal music. The senior scholars will be prepared and encouraged to matriculate in the University of London, while all the pupils will be subjected to such a thorough mental discipline as may qualify them for any pursuit in future life, whether professional or mercantile.

The building will accommodate a hundred and twenty pupils.

The situation is exceedingly healthy. The buildings stand upon an elevated and well-wooded sandstone ridge in the village of Tetterhall, quite out of the mining district, although within three miles of the Wolverhampton Railway Stations.

TERMS.—For pupils entering under 14 years of age, 50 guineas per annum; for those entering above 14 years of age, 60 guineas; private studies (under certain conditions), extra, 10 guineas. No advance will be made during a pupil's interrupted stay at the school.

The Academic Year is divided into two terms, each consisting of twenty weeks, and commencing respectively on the 25th of January and the 1st of August.

FISH STREET CHAPEL, HULL.
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